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INSIDE

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Review
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ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA Mid North Kent edition IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT No.441 March 6, 2011

ONLINE NEWS & SPORT: KENTNEWS.CO.UK | **CAMPAIGN:** KEEP KENT WORKING **PAGES 28-29** **FREE**

Archbishop slammed for criticism of budget cuts

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HEAD FEARS FOR VULNERABLE AS PUBLIC SPENDING SLASHED

EXCLUSIVE

By **STEVE KNIGHT** and **FLORENCE TENNENT**

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A HIGH-ranking Tory MP has hit back at criticism by the Archbishop of Canterbury that government spending cuts are putting vulnerable people at risk.

Dr Rowan Williams told KoS this week that he wished councils had the option to make budget cuts to services over a longer period of time, and that he was worried some people would continue to be worse off even after the economy has recovered.

But Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon – the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party and a member of the influential Treasury select committee – denies the Government is failing to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

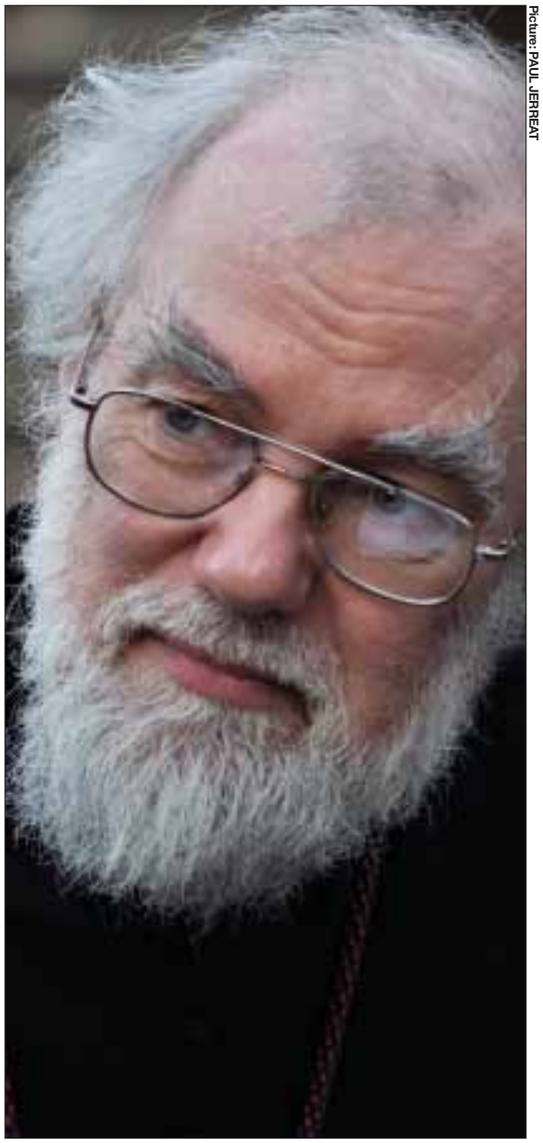
Dr Williams spoke to KoS during a visit to a new 21-bed sheltered accommodation project in Canterbury, provided by the Kent-wide homeless support charity Porchlight.

He said: "There's not a lot of public funding available and there's going to be less. I think all councils are in a no-win situation at the moment, squeezed between a rock and a hard place.

"I could wish they were a little more forward planning when the cuts come in, saving over a certain period rather than doing it all at once, because you've got to make sure the vulnerable are protected – that has to be the priority.

"The worst thing that could happen is as we're getting some level of prosperity back for the country, we leave

Continued on page two


Picture: PAUL JERREAT

CONCERNED: Dr Rowan Williams is worried the vulnerable are being put at risk by the Coalition Government's spending cuts

Massive sperm whale beached

LARGE crowds gathered on a Thanet beach when a 45ft sperm whale emerged from beneath the waves.

The massive creature was already dead by the time it washed up on Pegwell Bay, leaving council officers with a host of difficult decisions as to what to do next.

Police and coastguard teams were involved in the removal operation, while the Natural History Museum was also kept informed.

Café owner Morris Archer said: "At first I thought it was a boat that had turned over on its side. It was huge."

FULL STORY – PAGE 2

Big screen debut for historic castle

ROCHESTER Castle is the star of the newest big screen blockbuster, Ironclad.

But even though the film, starring James Purefoy and Brian Cox, centres around a siege of the historic site in 1215, the castle filmgoers will see at the multiplex is actually a reconstruction built in Wales.

In the film the castle acts a symbol of freedom when King John goes back on his pledge to uphold the right of free men and tries to regain control of the country.

Medway Council hopes the movie will increase interest in the castle and has introduced a free ticket offer for film fans.

FULL STORY – PAGE 3

Footballer looks to Premiership

MIDFIELDER Andrew Drury has embarked on an extraordinary career path from non-league football in Kent to joining Championship club Ipswich Town.

In a move which mirrors Chris Smalling's journey from Maidstone to Manchester United, Drury is now targeting promotion to the Premier League.

However, he has not forgotten his early days at hometown club Sittingbourne, who are now struggling to avoid extinction.

FULL STORY – SEE SPORT

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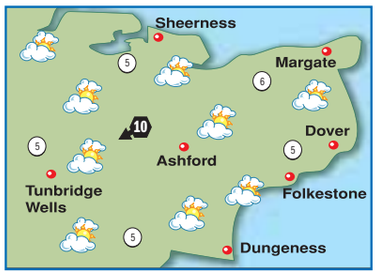

TODAY: It looks set to be dry, but chilly, breezy and dull, with largely cloudy skies. Few, if any, brighter spells. Moderate north-easterly winds. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **TONIGHT:** Cloud breaking to leave mostly clear skies. Brisk winds. Cold with a frost. Min temp -2 to 1C (28-34F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	7	45	London	fair	8	46
Belfast	fair	7	45	Liverpool	sun	7	45
Birmingham	fair	6	43	Manchester	fair	7	45
B'mouth	cloudy	7	45	Newcastle	sun	6	43
Bristol	fair	6	43	Norwich	fair	6	43
Cardiff	fair	7	45	Oxford	fair	6	43
Cork	cloudy	7	45	Southsea	cloudy	7	45
Edinburgh	fair	7	45	S'hampton	fair	7	45
Glasgow	fair	7	45	Southport	sun	7	45
Isle of Man	fair	7	45	Swansea	fair	7	45
Leeds	fair	5	41	Torquay	fair	7	45

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.31am	Sunset	5.44pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	6.30am	Moonset	7.54pm	5.44pm to 6.28am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	–	–	12.02	6.4	00.15	6.6	12.30	6.4
Margate	00.40	4.7	13.03	4.5	01.12	4.7	13.33	4.5
St Mary's	05.33	5.6	17.48	5.4	06.02	5.6	18.15	5.4

Week ahead

monday Sunny, but chilly. max 7C min-4C

tuesday Dry and sunny. max 9C min 0C

wednesday Dry. Some sun. max 10C min 1C

thursday Sunny periods. max 10C min 1C

friday Sunny spells. max 10C min 3C

saturday Turning cloudy. max 10C min 1C

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TRAGIC: The whale at Pegwell Bay

Pictures: MARITIME AND COASTGUARD AGENCY

Massive dead whale washes up on beach

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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STUNNED seasiders crowded onto a Thanet beach when a real-life monster from the deep was washed in by the tide.

The 45ft sperm whale was dead by the time it was spotted at Pegwell Bay on Thursday morning, leaving council officers, police and coastguard teams with the decision of what to do next.

"It was a long way from home and should have been in very deep waters," said Jon Brooks, a member of British Divers Marine Life Rescue. "It's very rare to have something of this size wash up in Kent. It would be very difficult to identify how it arrived here."

The creature, thought to weigh about five tonnes, washed up near the Pegwell Bay Hotel at high tide overnight.

But by the time the coastguard was notified by a dog-walker at first light, the tide was already starting to come in again.

"We couldn't get close enough to it at first so it was virtually impossible to ascertain if it was alive or dead," said Mr Brooks.

"Sperm whales can hold their breath for up to an hour with very little movement, so it's difficult to tell at the best of times. But we launched one of our boats and had a closer look, and it became clear that it was dead.

"Whales usually carry parasites on their backs but there were none on this one, so it may have been dead for a couple of days before it washed up."

Sperm whales are so called because their heads contain large quantities of a substance originally thought to be sperm, but which scientists believe is actually more likely to help the creature alter its buoyancy while diving to great depths.

HUGE: The sperm whale was 45ft long

They also have the largest brain of any creature known to have lived on Earth.

"We were advising people not to go too close to the whale once the tide went back out," said Mark Clark of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. "Some people seem to have a primal need to put their kids on its back and take lots of photographs when these creatures are full of bacteria and can spread disease, which we obviously want to avoid.

"You've also got to remember that it's a dead body, so it can get pretty smelly."

Although smaller creatures are known to appear on Kent's beaches, it has been more than a decade since a similarly-sized beast has turned up on the county's shores. On that occasion in the late 1990s a killer whale was helped back into the water at Pegwell Bay, only for it to die a short time later before washing up in Sandwich.

Earlier this year thousands of dead crabs appeared on Thanet's beaches, with environmentalists believing they caught hypothermia as a result of lower sea temperatures.

Tory MP defends welfare reforms

Continued from front page

the most vulnerable worse off than before."

Councils currently have little option but to make huge savings over the next financial year due to the front-loading of cuts imposed by the Coalition.

Kent County Council, for example, must save £95m this year, then £65m in 2012-13.

Porchlight has reported consistently high numbers of homeless people needing assistance, and fears this will increase as access to benefits is reduced.

But Mr Fallon defended the Government's position, claiming policies were in place to ensure the most vulnerable members of society are not left to suffer.

He said: "We're taking a million low-paid people out of income tax, increasing the rate of child tax credits, and introducing the pupil premium that will provide more funding for schools in disadvantaged areas.

"The point of the welfare reforms is to end the abuse whereby people who don't work end up in large, expensive houses that hard-working taxpayers cannot afford.

"It's up to the Archbishop to speak as he sees fit, but people should also look up what he said in the past about how the previous Labour government plunged us so deep into this debt to begin with."

Mr Fallon was referring to comments made in 2008 when Dr Williams likened then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown's plans to boost spending in a downturn as like "the addict returning to the drug".

The head of the Church of England visited Craddock House in Canterbury to lend his support to a new Porchlight campaign to tackle homelessness in Kent.

The charity is asking members of the public to report evidence of homelessness in the hope it will allow its volunteers to find and help more rough sleepers.

A pilot of the scheme run in Shepway, Ashford, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells at the end of last year saw the number of calls to Porchlight's free helpline rise from 723 in the previous month to an average of 900.

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

QUESTIONS: Kent on Sunday reporter Florence Tennent with Dr Rowan Williams

Dr Williams said: "One of the great things Porchlight does is raise people's awareness.

"It's always an inspiration talking to people in these circumstances. You feel they've been pulled back from the brink and given the chance to stand on their own two feet."

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Action thriller tells the story of medieval siege in Rochester

Castle's starring role in movie filmed in Wales

By **NICK AMES**

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ROCHESTER Castle hits the silver screen this week in the latest movie blockbuster – even though the film was shot in Wales.

Ironclad, starring James Purefoy and Brian Cox, is a £15 million action thriller about the siege of Rochester Castle in 1215.

But the 13th century castle in the heart of Medway doesn't appear in the movie – filming was done at a replica built at Dragon Studios in Rhondda Cynon, Taf, south Wales.

Medway Council is hoping the film, which opened on Friday, will boost interest in the building, and filmgoers will get free entry to the castle this month when they present their cinema stub to staff at the historic site.

The film relives one of the most prominent dates in English medieval history, as the despised King John, who is forced to sign a Magna Carta upholding the rights of free men, goes back on his pledge and tries to regain control of his country.

Rochester Castle stands as a symbol of the rebels' struggles for freedom as it becomes the last castle between the King and inevitable victory, and a battle ensues.

The film stars Paul Giamatti as King John, Brokeback Mountain actress Kate Mara, Dartford-born MacKenzie Crook from The Office, James Flemyng from Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, and James Purefoy from A Knight's Tale.

RECREATION: An action scene from the film, and below, the castle at Rochester

Medway Council's portfolio holder for community services, Cllr Howard Doe said: "This film is an opportunity for people to relive a momentous part of the area's history.

"We're inviting people who've seen the film to head to Rochester and visit the castle, to learn more about its history for free."

Producer Rick Benattar has stated the movie will be as historically accurate as possible and viewers will feel they are in the heart of the battle.

During the siege, a mine was dug beneath the castle towers, which caused the south east tower of the keep to collapse.

The castle was taken on November 30, due to starvation and not by force of arms.

A model of the siege is on display in Rochester's museum.

• Rochester Castle is open daily from 10am-4pm, and last admission is at 3.15pm. Admission is usually £5 for adults, £3.50 for children and concessions, family ticket £13.50. For details call the castle on 01634 335882.

Newborn baby's body exhumed in hunt for killer

THE body a baby girl who was killed nearly 16 years ago is to be exhumed in a cold case murder investigation.

Newborn 'Baby April', as she was nicknamed by the investigation team, was found by a couple walking alongside Singleton Lake, Ashford, on April 3, 1995.

She was wrapped in a Kleenex toilet tissue bag inside a Motaworld carrier bag.

A post mortem examination revealed she had died of asphyxiation.

A murder inquiry was launched and, despite an investigation by Kent Police at the time, the parents of the baby were not identified and no-one has been held to account for her death.

The baby weighed 7lbs and is believed to have been born between March 26, and April 3, 1995. She was later buried in the Bybrook Cemetery in Kennington, Ashford.

Officers from Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate's Cold Case Team have sought authority from HM Coroner to have the body exhumed so a forensic examination can be carried out to try and obtain a DNA profile of the baby.

Det Insp Dave Withers said: "It is important that we use advances in forensic technology to help us identify who the parents of this child are. We have exhumed the baby for that purpose.

"We want to hear from anyone who may have information regarding baby April.

"We are keen to appeal to the baby's mother. We want to hear your side of the story.

"We understand you may be worried or frightened by what happened, you may have been a young girl at the time and you may not have been alone.

"I urge you to contact me, I have specially-trained staff you can speak to. They will listen to what you have to say and you will be dealt with sensitively and compassionately."

Anyone with information can call police on 01634 884044 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

To see this clip search 'Howard' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Els Howard on how industry and education need to co-operate to help with student job opportunities

Wheelie stupid

A BIKER has been given a six-month suspended prison sentence after he was caught doing wheelies and 149mph on a motorway.

Danny Russell Bleach, 37, of Coleman Road, Belvedere, has been disqualified from driving for 18 months after pleading guilty at Medway Magistrates' Court.

He will have to take an extended test, do 200 hours community service, and pay £85 costs.

He was filmed on the coastbound M2 from Strood to Chatham on November 7, 2010, by a police officer on an unmarked motorbike.

He was filmed pulling two wheelies before riding off at speeds of up to 149mph.

PC Chris King was riding the unmarked bike, and said: "This motorcyclist had a total disregard for the road and other riders."

CHANCELLOR George Osborne has responded to calls by fuel protestors for the Government to abandon the next duty increase in April.

In a letter to former Top Gear presenter Quentin Willson, who is leading Shepway councillor Peter Carroll's Fair Fuel UK campaign, Mr Osborne said the Coalition was considering a fuel stabiliser and a pilot scheme to help rural residents.

The response came ahead of a demonstration on Wednesday, organised by Cllr Carroll, where protesters handed a 120,000-signature petition to Downing Street.

Mr Osborne said: "We are considering a fair fuel stabiliser to support motorists when oil prices are high."

But a go-slow protest on the M2 and M25 on Monday fell flat when only five cars turned up.

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New range of crisps celebrates a taste of the Garden of England

Fine flavours are in the bag

By **NICK AMES**

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A NEW range of crisps was launched this week reflecting the diverse flavours and landscapes of Kent.

Cheese from Canterbury, cider from Biddenden, oysters from Whitstable and salt from the coastline are all ingredients in Kent Crisps which were launched at Quex Park Estate, Birchington.

They are now on sale at pubs, delicatessens and tourist attractions across the county.

The four flavours now on the market are oyster and vinegar, Ashmore cheese and onion, Biddenden cider vinegar and sea salt.

Quex Foods is behind the new crisps, which were the brainchild of the firm's managing director, Anthony Curwen.

"Farming alone used to support an estate like Quex but now we know we have to diversify," he said.

"I came up with the idea of the crisps, I wanted to give people the chance to experience the tastes of Kent on a plate.

"Tourism and agriculture are synonymous within the county. People come here to admire the landscape and that is largely manmade as the countryside has been farmed for centuries."

Mr Curwen is a former chairman of the county branch of the National Farmers' Union and so was keen to show off the produce of Kent.

The potatoes which form the crisps are grown in fields around the village and varities include Lady Rosetta, Lady Claire, Lady Jo and Hermes.

Flavourings come from Canterbury-based Ashmore Cheesemakers which produce a cheddar-style taste and texture. The cheese is muslin-wrapped and pressed for two days in traditional 19th century presses before it is unwrapped and placed on aged pine shelves to mature for at least five months.

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

CREATOR: Quex Foods' Anthony Curwen

Oyster powder is the savoury taste of another of the selection, the shellfish have had connections with Whitstable since Roman times.

The cider produced at Bidden Vineyards – Kent's oldest – flavours another one of the snacks while sea salt, which gave its name to the medieval village of Seasalter is the last in the range.

Each pack contains information on the flavourings and their links with Kent – as a sort of edible tourist guide.

"Kent is the Garden of England and this is something we have tried to reflect," said Mr Curwen. "Other counties may have their own specialities, but we are the one which can produce almost everything.

"This is just the start as well. We want to expand our range and sell in different parts of the country, showing the rest of Britain the unique tastes of Kent."

Quex Foods Park Estate is the parent company of Quex Foods and the launch saw dignitaries from across the county sampling the range.

Chairman of Visit Kent Amanda Cottrell said: "They are delicious. It shows what a range of foods we have in the county. It really makes no sense to import food when we have such quality here.

"Kent Crisps, that is alliteration and that is poetry."

Hit and run death driver locked up

A RAILWAY worker who knocked a man off his moped and left him lying in the gutter dying has been sentenced to seven years in jail.

Danny Bourne, 27, was driving on the wrong side of the road and had been drinking when he hit Adrian Hyde on the Canterbury Road in south Willesborough at around 5am on October 26, 2009.

Bourne then drove off, along with his two passengers, leaving the postman on the road. He died within two hours from multiple injuries.

A jury at Maidstone Crown Court unanimously found Bourne, of Bredlands Close, guilty of causing death by dangerous driving.

He was also disqualified from driving for six years and will have to take a re-test to regain his driving licence.

Bourne had pleaded guilty to failing to stop, failing to report an accident, and failing to notify police details of the driver when required.

To see this clip search 'subway' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Students from Canterbury's University of the Creative Arts have taken over a disused subway

REGENERATION: How the Royal Sands development will look when building work is finished

New-look seafront gets closer

A MAJOR step forward in the regeneration of Ramsgate seafront has taken place, with work starting on the superstructure of the Royal Sands development.

It marks an important milestone for Cardy Construction Limited, the company behind the development which will include luxury apartments, a hotel, and state-of-the-art facilities.

Work on the superstructure – the building above the foundations – began as part of a two-year programme.

Regional director of Canterbury-based Cardy Construction Ltd, Tim Seed, said he was delighted work had commenced.

"This provides an important milestone for the development," he said. "There remains significant and strong interest within the market place for quality high specification coastal developments of this type.

"We have indeed been buoyed by the high level of sales enquiries that we continue to receive for the apartments, many of whom have expressed an interest in purchasing off-plan in order to secure a preferred location within the development.

"There have been rumours that a number of high-profile celebrities have visited the site and we understand some have shown a keen interest in the scheme."

Mr Seed said the project would be completed within a two-year programme and at its peak would provide work for more than 250 skilled local tradesmen.

RURAL communities who suffer from slow broadband are being encouraged to bid for cash to improve their internet download speeds.

Kent County Council has announced a £1.5 million Superfast Broadband Pilot Fund to help rural communities.

This money is available to community groups, parish councils or local authorities. All applications must have a sound business case and show the economic benefits of fast broadband and must be submitted by April 14, 2011.

Successful bids could receive a maximum amount of funding of £100,000.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY NICK AMES

Nasty Nick's glamour role

A new vintage clothing store is to be opened by fashion guru Lynnette Peck Bateman with the help of her husband Nick, of Big Brother fame

THE small town of Sandwich will soon be awash with glamour as fashion guru Lynnette Peck Bateman prepares to open a revolutionary shop in the town.

Lovely's Vintage Emporium will be run by Peck Bateman and husband Nick – famous as one of the first-ever stars of reality TV show Big Brother.

Peck Bateman will be behind the counter when the shop opens for business next month, juggling her new retail venture with her freelance fashion and PR life in London.

Meanwhile, Nick – first referred to as 'Nasty' for his original TV appearance, but later rechristened 'Not So Nasty' following his time in the house during last year's past-stars show – will also be serving customers.

Peck Bateman said she has been fascinated by fashion ever since she was a child, designing outfits by cutting out designs from catalogues and matching them up.

"I used to paste them into scrapbooks," she said. "As far back as I can remember I have always loved fashion.

"I used to love the vintage stores in Cambridge, where I grew up. I always liked to dress distinctively. My mother would make me clothes and I used to make sure I got all the magazines as a teenager. But I had no idea you could ever do it as a job."

She will be drawing on some of her experiences working in a boutique in London's King's Road when it comes to the new store.

"I worked in a vintage clothing store named Steinberg and Tolkien," she said. "All the girls there had different looks – an idea which I won't be copying, but it really worked.

"Mine was Sloaney, I suppose. Another of the girls wore silk dresses while another had a punk style. We used to get people like Paula Yates coming in – she'd try on the night dresses and buy them for day wear."

A career in fashion journalism then followed for Lynnette, who was also responsible for setting up fashion photo-shoots and hosting launches for top labels – at one of which she first met future husband Nick. The couple came across one another again while on a trans-Atlantic fight.

Projects

Celebrities she has "styled" include Sophie Anderton, Lord Brocket, Emma Bunton, Caprice, Charlotte Church, Jenny Éclair, Gail Porter, Toyah and Paul Young.

She is now – among other projects – working for Saga magazine but has found time to devote to the store idea.

Nick said: "I think I said it once as a bit of a joke – why don't we open a clothes store?

"The name was in fun as well – all my male friends would say how 'lovely' Lynnette was so I thought we could call it Lovely's.

"We looked around east Kent for a likely location. Sandwich was our choice, because it is accessible from other parts and has great character."

Nick – who worked in The City for 10 years prior to his TV stardom – is handling the business side of the operation.

Meanwhile, Lynnette is responsible for stock, using her contacts and experience.

"We will have good quality clothes from different periods on sale," said Lynnette. "I am looking on it as a new adventure."

Nick has set himself the task of sorting out a small range of menswear.

"I think things like cufflinks would be popular – maybe golf related, with the Open coming up," he said.

"Possibly when women go into a clothing store they may feel guilty if they spend a bit of cash. Well, if they want to spend something on their partner as well to alleviate that, they will find something interesting."

The store is to open its doors in the first week of April, but the website www.lovelysvintageemporium.com will be keep fashion-lovers informed of events.

To see this search 'nasty nick' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Former Big Brother star 'Nasty' Nick Bateman talks about his wife's clothes shop in Sandwich

ADVENTURE: Lynnette Peck Bateman and husband Nick plan to open a clothes store

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Sheppey's alien invasion was just a student hoax, secret documents reveal

By **JILL HURST**

jill.hurst@kosmedia.co.uk

CLASSIFIED documents about UFO sightings have revealed a War of the Worlds hoax staged by students in 1967.

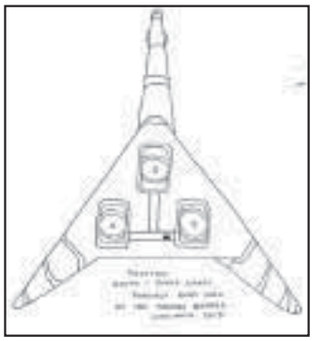
Engineering apprentices at Farnborough Technical College devised the rag-week jape, constructing six small 'flying saucers' which they released across southern England.

The RAF and police were swamped with calls when members of the public spotted them in locations spanning the region, including on the Isle of Sheppey.

Fearing real-life alien invasion, officials mobilised the Army's southern command, four police forces, a bomb disposal unit, RAF helicopters and MoD's intelligence officers.

A Westland whirlwind helicopter was scrambled from RAF Manston to Sheppey to investigate an 'alien craft'.

Christine Slaymaker, principal of Farnborough College of Technology said the group of students responsible was an "extremely able" cohort who had gone on to "notable success" in their careers.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Sketch of spaceship seen near Woolwich

According to Ms Slaymaker, the saucers had been filled with natural yoghurt to create a foul smell upon discovery.

"I'm not sure almost 44 years on they thought it would still be so newsworthy," she said.

"I hope our current apprentices will aspire to achieve such success without a flying saucer in sight."

Records reveal the hoax was not discovered until a Scotland Yard bomb disposal officer, based at Bromley police station, was ordered to check the object with a portable X-ray machine.

A second saucer was sent to Home Office scientists at Aldermaston and a third was sent for inspection by the chief designer of the guided weapons division of the British Aircraft Corporation. One saucer was blown up in a controlled explosion.

The flying saucer hoax came to light as 8,000 previously classified documents on UFOs were released.

Photographs and sketches of UFOs made by members of the public are available, together with official reports – the "1967 flying saucer hoax" is recorded as an "obviously very successful joke".

UFOs have been debated just once in Parliament, in the House of Lords in 1979. Speaking at the time. Lord Stabolgi summed up what continues to be the official position.

"There is nothing to convince Her Majesty's Government there has ever been a single visit by an alien spacecraft."

• ***To view the records, visit the National Archives site www.ufos.nationalarchives.gov.uk.***

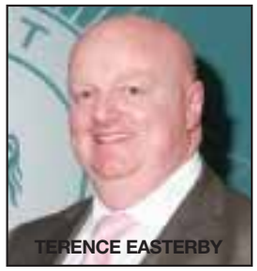
Tribute to A2 crash officer

COLLEAGUES have paid tribute to the policeman who was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Terence Easterby, 44, who was a sergeant at Medway police station, died in a three-vehicle collision on the A2.

Mr Easterby suffered fatal injuries on Friday, February 25, and died at the scene following a collision between a grey Peugeot 306, a beige Skoda Fabia and a gold Honda motorcycle.

Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Steve Corbishley said: "Terry joined Kent Police in 1986 and served the force with dedication for over 24 years.


TERENCE EASTERBY

"He had worked at Medway since 2003 and most recently held the position of detective sergeant in the Crime Response Team.

"Terry was a professional, committed and respected officer whose personality shone within every department he worked in.

"On Friday we lost a very valuable colleague and to many, a close friend.

"I had worked with Terry over a number of years and was extremely saddened to hear of his death.

"His passing has come as a shock to his colleagues here in Medway and across Kent."

Mr Easterby leaves a wife and two daughters.

More winners than losers among year six

Fewer miss out on 'big school' choice

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR the majority of year six pupils in Kent, the emails and letters they received on Tuesday afternoon contained the information they had been hoping for.

Nearly 83 per cent of children applying for schools in the county (excluding Medway) have won a place at their first preference, with 97 per cent being offered a spot at one of their top four.

But despite the encouraging figures, education experts say the lack of available grammar school places in west Kent continues to be a cause of concern, with little optimism that the situation will improve.

In October, Kent County Council failed in its attempt to end the process of 'super selection' – whereby schools pick the best pupils regardless of where they live – at three west Kent grammars. More than 170 objections were lodged against the admissions policies of Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells, Judd School in Tonbridge, and Tonbridge Grammar, but the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator ruled against the council.

Independent education advisor Peter Read said: "There are still considerable pressures on grammar school places in west Kent, particularly for boys. There are a number of boys living in Pembury and parts of Sevenoaks who have passed their 11-plus but have not been offered a grammar place this year.

"It's because of the super-selection policy employed by some schools, which is displacing Kent children and which is wholly wrong.

"I don't think there's a solution at the moment. There has been some political interest in building a new grammar school in west Kent, but I see no signs that anything is going to happen soon."

Outside of west Kent, Mr Read welcomed the news that 83 per cent of children – an increase of three per cent – had been offered a place at their first-choice school.

However, he voiced concerns that a change in the selection policy at Leigh Technology Academy in Dartford – the most oversubscribed school in Kent – had resulted in children from London being among more than 1,000 pupils who battled it out for just 240 available places.

Mr Read said: "The number of children who did not receive one of their top four schools has fallen by a third, which is good news but not, of course, for the 413 who have missed out.

"These are not just numbers but real people and I feel sorry for them. But they have the right to appeal and there will be allocations. There will be considerable movement in the weeks and months to come. At the end of the day a lot

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pupils – but grammar concerns remain

PASS MARK: More pupils have got their first-choice school this year

of children will have a school of their choice."

A total of 15,032 pupils were offered a school named on their application form, with 12,775 getting their first choice.

Kent schools also received a total of 1,670 applications from out-of-county children, of which 30 per cent were offered places.

KCC's cabinet member for education, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said: "It is a massive task to match children to one of their chosen schools and I hope the vast majority are pleased with the place they have secured. Although 97 per cent have been offered one of their four choices, that is little consolation to those families who have had a place allocated because their preferred schools were full.

"While I understand how disappointing this is, it is very early days and there will be substantial movement in the coming weeks."

See www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions for more information on how to join a waiting list and/or appeal.

Meanwhile, the number of Medway children offered a place at their first choice school has also risen by three per cent to 87 per cent, or 2,579 pupils.

Ninety-eight per cent have been offered a place at one of their named preferences, an increase of 0.5 per cent.

Medway's portfolio holder for children's services, Cllr Les Wicks, said: "Arranging for your child to make the leap from primary to secondary is one of the pivotal moments of family life and it can be a stressful time.

"I am pleased to see so many children have been allocated their preference and wish them all the best in their future studies."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Mayor's message to NZ quake city

GRAVESHAM Mayor Cllr William Lambert has sent a message of support and sympathy to the people of Christchurch, New Zealand, after the devastating earthquake there.

The north Kent borough has strong links with the area. The South Island city was founded by occupants of four ships that sailed from Gravesend and has flower beds commemorating the link.

The message to Christchurch mayor Bob Parker reads: "The loss of lives and homes must have had a devastating effect and the thoughts of us all are with you in this time.

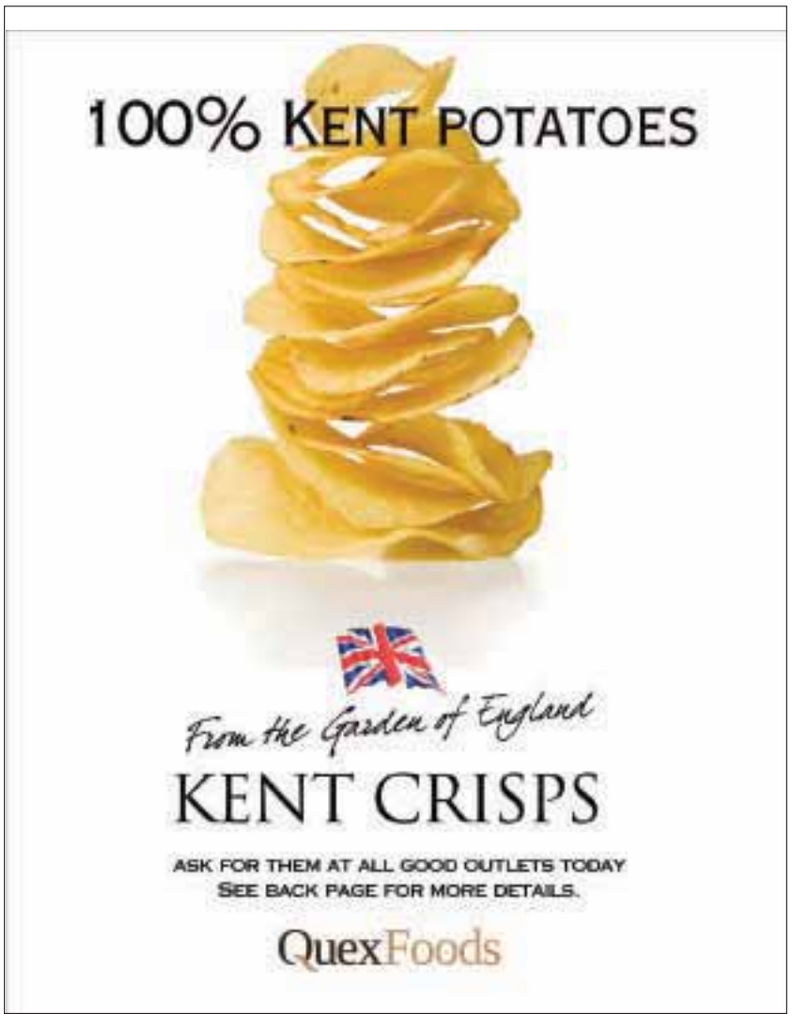
"The news was even more poignant when you consider the history of the early settlers who sailed from Gravesend to establish Christchurch."

Jail threat to OAP pants cash cheat

A 69-YEAR-OLD who concealed almost £60,000 in his underpants in an attempt to smuggle it out of the country through Dover has been ordered to pay back £380,000 or face a further four years in jail.

Canterbury Crown Court ordered John Anthony Maurice (pictured right), a semi-retired property salesman of Barnstaple, Devon, to pay back the money by September 1, after hearing he had hidden assets totalling £380,000. Judge Adele Williams called Maurice "an intelligent, sophisticated and practised liar".

He pleaded guilty to money laundering offences totalling nearly £4 million and was jailed in March, 2010, for four years. He was caught waiting to board a ferry to France and had 63,000 euros and £2,600 in his pants.



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EU acts on fish scandal at last

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

EUROPE could soon stop forcing fishermen to throw some of their catch back into the sea, even if the fish are dead.

And an end to the discarding of dead fish could be the financial lifeline Kent's fleet of small boats has been looking for.

The European Union imposes strict quotas on how much fish can be caught by member states each year, meaning fishermen who accidentally catch certain species while aiming for another are forced to throw them back.

Celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall gave the issue mainstream media attention last month as part of his Channel 4 series Hugh's Fish Fight, and now decision-makers in Brussels have promised to stop the wasteful practice.

South Thanet Tory MP Laura Sandys, who featured in one Hugh's Fish Fight broadcast, said she was pleased the European Commission was moving towards banning discards by 2013.

"Our fishermen have been at the forefront of the campaigning and I have been proud to stand alongside them," she said.

"We believe discarding fish is immoral and look forward to all the catch being landed into the future. It is an absolute scandal that more than 50 per cent of all fish are thrown back into the sea dead."

On Tuesday, Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki discussed alternatives to discarding with delegates from EU states in Brussels.

She proposes instead to regulate fleets through limits on fishing time and greater use of measures such as CCTV to ensure fishermen are targeting species they are legally allowed to catch.

The plans are due to be finalised later this year. Whitstable's Phil Edwards is one of many Kent fishermen to have been affected by the strict EU quotas and discard policy.

He said: "I caught my month's quota of skate in about two hours last week, but when I moved to a different area to catch cod, I ended up with even more skate.

"I then had to dump £200 worth of dead fish to save about £50 of living fish. The effort limitation system would be better for boats our size because it's nigh on impossible to target just one species. That would restrict us to only a few hours at sea a day, but at least we'd be able to keep everything we catch."

QUOTAS: Boats at Whitstable harbour

Mr Edwards is one of a growing number of fishermen to have voiced their frustration at the practice of 'armchair fishing', where surplus quota is leased by rich fishing organisations, at great cost, to smaller boats which have not been assigned adequate quota. Some have even taken legal advice due to concerns the process is effectively the privatisation of a national asset.

GUTTED: Cook Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall took his Channel 4 campaign to Westminster

Last week Kent Lib Dem MEP Sharon Bowles wrote to fisheries minister Richard Benyon asking him to address the situation.

She said: "Coastal fishing towns are important to the local economy and in these times of austerity we must look to small businesses to lead economic recovery and growth. Sub-10-metre class fishing boats are assigned a disproportionately small percentage of the fishing quota, and this has a negative impact on inshore fishing.

"The financial burden placed on inshore fishermen in the South East has pushed the price of fish caught by small boats way above that of fish landed by big producer organisations.

However, UK Independence Party leader and South East MEP Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham, near Sevenoaks, described the proposed changes as "a red herring for a British fishing industry almost dead in the water".

He added: "For the British fishing industry, any changes will come too late. When we try to ban discards on a catch quota policy, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall will find the British fishing industry is not just 'feeling the pinch' but is already dying on its feet."

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Mums-to-be flock to new unit

THE Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury is being overwhelmed by pregnant women choosing to give birth in its state-of-the-art maternity unit.

Health bosses have been forced to ask mothers-to-be to choose another hospital for the next six months due to "unprecedented interest" from women across Kent and Sussex. But as parents-to-be flock to the hospital to give birth, there have been reported bad experiences as staff struggle to cope with the numbers.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust said the new maternity centre had received enquiries from women living in Rochester right the way through Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone, and into the Weald and into East Sussex.

Gillian Duffey, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's associate director of nursing and head of midwifery, said lives were not being put at risk because of the popularity of the unit.

She said: "In the short time it has been open, the maternity centre has been inundated with requests from women who would not normally give birth at Pembury.

"We are asking women not to change hospitals to Pembury if they are due to give birth in the next six months. We know this will come as a disappointment, but we are not fully operational until September."

It is the first hospital in the NHS to offer every patient their own single room with en suite facilities and woodland views.

Mrs Duffey added: "At the same time we are delighted that so many women have quickly recognised the benefits our new maternity centre has to offer them, and look forward to September when we can offer up to 5,000 women a year this very personal and unique experience."

STRAIN: New maternity unit is under pressure

Dying Brit 'ignored' as French police smoked

A CORONER has described the treatment of a dying Maidstone man involved in a freak accident in France as "inexcusable", ***writes Jill Hurst***.

David Manktelow, 45, fell from the roof window of a camper van he was travelling in with three friends en route to Le Mans car rally in northern France.

At an inquest into his death, witnesses described how French police "stood around and smoked cigarettes", dismissing the group as English drunks, despite Mr Manktelow lying unconscious in the road with blood seeping from his nose, ears and mouth.

The prison officer had set out in April, 2006, with friends Darren Golding, Anthony Golding and John Roberts, all from Maidstone. After taking the ferry from Dover to Calais, the four embarked on a seven-hour road trip to Le Mans. Driver Darren Golding told coroner Roger Sykes the three passengers shared two bottles of wine and some vodka before retiring to sleep.

Mr Manktelow climbed to the upper cab, while Anthony Golding lay on the back seat and Mr Roberts slept in the passenger seat. Darren Golding said he continued driving, but became tired and turned off the A28 motorway at about 3am, intending to stop at a picnic area.

Travelling uphill at about 35mph, he saw a white band in his rear-view mirror, which he realised was Mr Manktelow's socked foot. He recalled seeing his friend hanging from the back of the vehicle before falling.

After bringing the van to a stop, all three men frantically searched for Mr Manktelow, placing him in the recovery position and flagging down a motorist to call the emergency services.

Mr Golding said it took more than an hour before paramedics arrived, during which time "pandemonium" broke out as they tried to convince police to help. He said: "They were very lax. They thought we were four Englishmen travelling in a van and one fell out and was at the side of the road, drunk and snoring."

Mr Golding said an ambulance arrived but refused to reverse 50 yards up the motorway and drove off. He said: "It took at least 50 minutes before a paramedic saw him. It suddenly turned from very casual, with about seven officers smoking, to very serious.

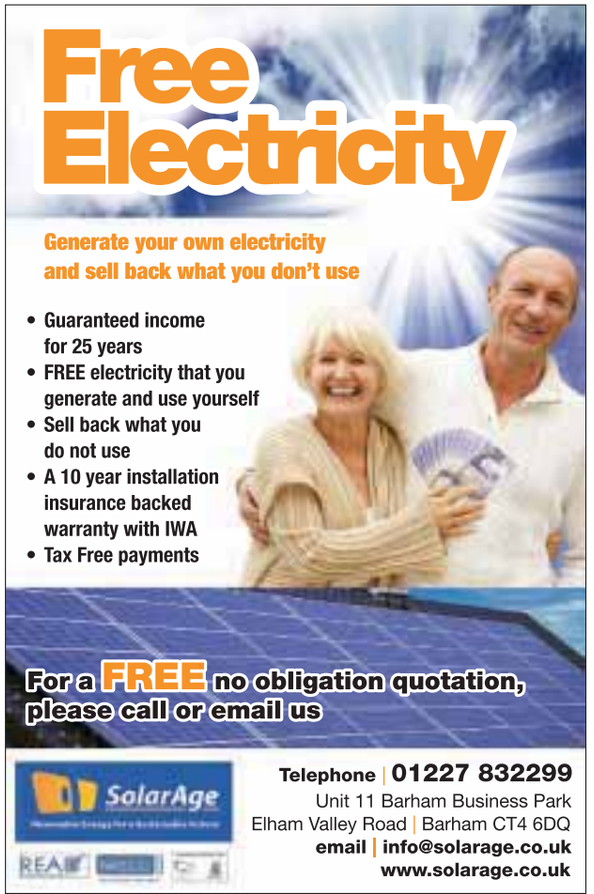
"More doctors turned up. At one point there were about 10 working on him."

Mr Manktelow was eventually transferred to a French hospital but died nine days later. Widow Vanda and 20-year-old son, Adam, attended the inquest at County Hall, Maidstone, on Wednesday. She asked pathologist Dr David Rouse if it was possible for her 14-stone husband to fall through a 39cm window.

"You'd be surprised at what spaces the human body can get through," replied Dr Rouse, who confirmed her husband's injuries were consistent with a fall from a moving vehicle.

Recording a verdict of misadventure, Mr Sykes said: "There was an inexcusable delay on the part of the emergency services which must have been highly distressing for those present.

"It was a tragic outcome."



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Sour grapes and Mickey Mouse in 'best school' spat

By **JILL HURST**
jill.hurst@kosmedia.co.uk

AN INDEPENDENT school in Medway has been reported to the advertising watchdog by the head of a rival school for claiming it is the best in the country.

Ian Walker, the headteacher at King's School in Rochester, has complained about Gad's Hill School in Higham to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

Dr Walker described Gad's Hill's boasts as a "load of undiluted rubbish" and criticised the league tables on which the claims had been made.

Dr Walker said the league tables were distorted because schools such as his offer International GCSEs (IGCSEs) rather than conventional GCSEs, which are not recognised in performance league tables.

David Craggs, the headteacher of Gad's Hill, said he believed it was a case of "sour grapes". A spokesman for Gad's Hill said it believed the rival school was unhappy that it had placed signs outside its grounds proclaiming it as the "top performing independent school in the country".

King's School charges £8,335 a term for senior school pupils. Dr Walker said Gad's Hill only received good results by allowing pupils to study "Mickey-Mouse subjects".

He added: "How the Government placed them so high in the country is beyond me. It can only be due to the fact that the whole way in which league tables are reported is a load of cobblers."

Gad's Hill has 400 nursery-to-senior-school pupils. A spokesman said they had simply reported their league standing to parents by way of letters and boards outside the school.

Mr Craggs claimed the row started after Gad's Hill was named as a top performing school by the Daily Telegraph based on its GCSE results and data published by the Department for Education.

"I have to say I'm amazed by the reaction of King's. This sounds like a very bad case of sour grapes," Mr Craggs said.

RIVALRY: Gad's Hill and King's crests

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• ***The Universe: 7 Wonders of the Solar System is released on March 21 and is available from amazon.co.uk.***

Family's tribute to rail death dad

THE family of a man who died on a railway line in Whitstable has paid tribute to a "fantastic husband and father of two".

Anthony Sait, 40, who ran the Tudor Tearooms in the seaside town, was killed when he was hit by a train on the line near to a level crossing on Monday, February 21.

In a statement released through British Transport Police, his family said: "We would appreciate peace and quiet to grieve for and remember Anthony, who has left us all far too soon.

"Anthony was a fantastic husband and father of two – one of the kindest people you could ever meet. We would like to thank everyone for their messages of support and goodwill, and to extend our sympathy to all of those who knew Anthony."

A BTP spokeswoman said the death was not being treated as suspicious and a file was being prepared for the coroner.

Appeal over sex attack on teen girl

POLICE are appealing for information after a teenage girl was sexually assaulted in Dover.

The incident happened on February 12, between 7.30-8.30pm, when three teenage girls were in Biggin Street near clothes store Peacocks when a man approached them.

He started speaking to them and then touched one of girls, who is 15. Her friends then chased the man who went into the Golden Lion pub.

He has a dark European complexion, black hair, glasses, and wore a long-sleeved top, jeans and a gold buckle belt.

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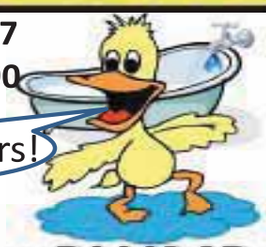

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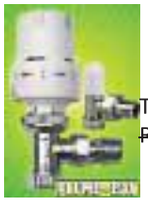

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Border Agency visa blow to universities

UNIVERSITY leaders have warned that a planned overhaul of the UK immigration system could seriously harm the future prospects of the higher education sector, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The Government wants to double the price of student visas as part of its proposals to limit the effect of spending cuts at the UK Border Agency, which faces a 20 per cent budget reduction over the next four years.

Due to be introduced in April, the new fees mean foreigners will have to pay £140 for a short-term visa as opposed to £70 at present.

The Government also plans to reduce the number of foreign students studying below degree level, raise the students' language requirements, and limit their entitlement to work and bring their families to the UK.

Seymour Roworth-Stokes is pro-vice-chancellor for research and development at the University for the Creative Arts, which has campuses in Canterbury, Rochester and Maidstone. He is one of many university leaders who fear the changes will put legitimate students off coming to the UK.

"Universities are facing tough challenges with cuts in funding, a cap on student places and new tuition fees," said Mr Roworth-Stokes. "Before the Government announced it was going to withdraw nearly all the teaching budget in the sector, we had already begun to develop our internationalisation strategy and increase the number of overseas students.

"This is of crucial importance to a specialist university which has a reputation for nurturing creative talent worldwide. It also helps diversify income streams while allowing us to grow and become more efficient, helping keep costs down. Any hasty immigration policies affecting student visas could have a serious effect on many universities, while also passing on extra costs to students in the UK."

According to the Institute for Public Policy Research, universities in the South East benefit from nearly £381 million a year through international revenue. Foreign students also spend an estimated £205m.

Announcing the fees increases last Monday, Ashford Tory MP and immigration minister Damian Green admitted the cost of applying to come to Britain would prove a barrier to some. He added: "It is the right time to ask migrants to make a greater contribution to funding the UK Border Agency.

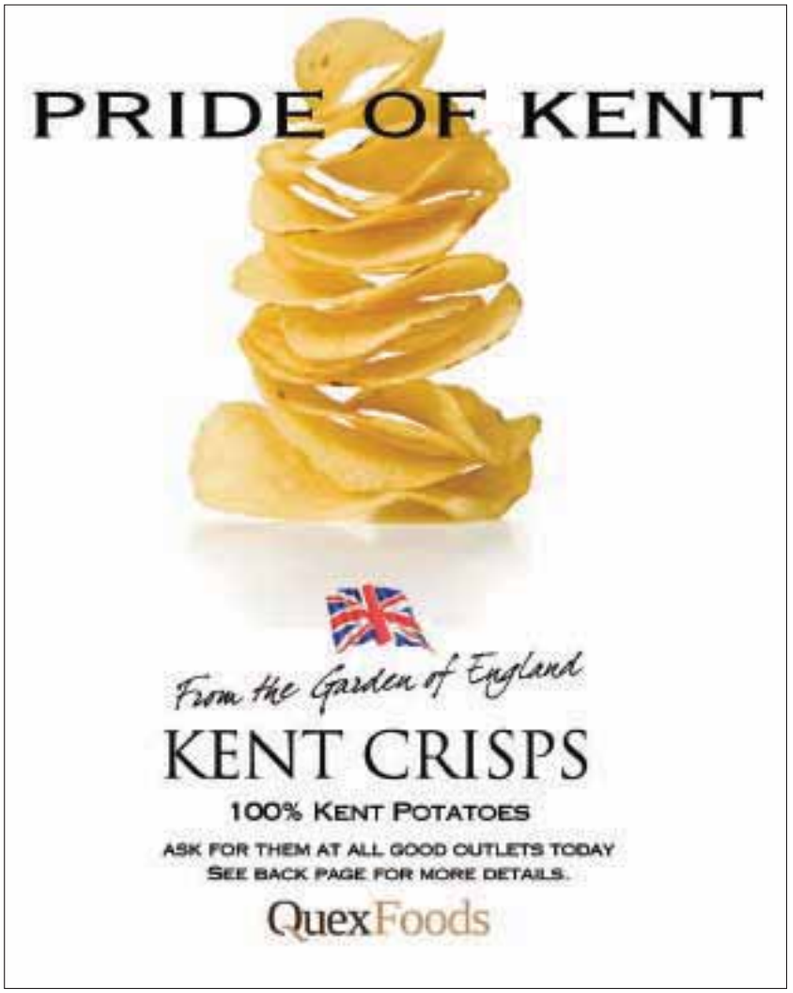
Migrants

"We should continue to seek a shift in the funding provided by migrants to deliver the border and immigration system."

In addition to the student visa fee increases, the Government also plans to increase the costs associated with longer-term applications. For example, a 10-year visitor's visa is due to go up £52 to £702, while the fee for a joint application for British citizenship will rise from £1,010 to £1,294.

John Slater, director of student recruitment at Canterbury Christ Church University, said: "We have a vibrant and growing international student community. We want to encourage genuine overseas students to come to Kent and Medway to study and we hope this will not be inhibited in the future."

The University of Kent declined to comment when contacted by KoS.



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Inflation blamed for big rise in water bills

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE current high rate of inflation has been blamed for large water bill increases in Kent.

Water companies have been given the green light to raise charges broadly in line with a 4.7 per cent rate of inflation – based on last November's Retail Price Index – resulting in even further expense for households struggling to cope with the effects of the downturn.

Customers served by South East Water can expect the largest bill increases in the county, due to a 7.8 per cent rise of £14, up to an average bill of £193.

Southern Water, which provides Kent homes with both water and sewerage services, is raising charges by 6.4 per cent (£24) to a total average bill of £397.

The chairwoman of the Consumer Council for Water (CCWater), Dame Yve Buckland, said bill-payers would be rightly surprised by the large increases.

She said: "Many customers are struggling with rising household and other bills, and debt is rising. Already one in six customers tells us that they cannot afford their water bill. We want the companies to demonstrate to customers what they are getting for their money, and also to think how they might share the benefits of this unexpected financial gain with their customers.

HARD TO SWALLOW: Residents in the county will find their water bills increasing at a time when they can least afford it

"Water companies need to make profits and that's fine, but when they have done well financially in the past CCWater has been successful in persuading them to give £135 million back to customers in the form of lower prices and additional investments in the water and sewerage network to benefit customers. We will be talking to the companies to see how this can be repeated in this price period."

In 2009, the water regulator Ofwat ruled that bills must remain broadly stable up until 2015. However, inflation is still added to the costs on a year-by-year basis. The new charges will come into effect on April 1, and remain in place until March 31, 2012.

South East Water managing director Paul Butler said its bill increases would help to deliver £390m of service improvements over the next five years.

He added: "We have worked hard over the last year to deliver our largest ever improvement programme, and over the next year we will invest another £80m to continue to improve the service our customers receive.

"While we believe that an average of just 53p per day remains excellent value for money, we do appreciate that some of our customers may be experiencing financial difficulties and so we have measures in place to help those customers facing real hardship."

Southern Water says its bills will contribute to a £1.7 billion service improvement programme, including £15m to find and repair leaking pipes, and £90m upgrading water and wastewater treatment works in 2011-12.

Meanwhile, customers served by the three other companies providing water to Kent households have also been hit by inflation-busting increases.

Thames Water has raised its charges by 4.1 per cent, to a total of £319 for water and sewerage, Veolia Southeast (formerly Folkestone and Dover Water) by 3.1 per cent to £190, and Sutton and East Surrey Water by 5.2 per cent to £174.

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All bets are off as axe robbery foiled

A MAN armed with an axe attempted to rob a high street bookmakers.

The man entered the Betfred shop in Gillingham at about 8.45pm on Monday, February 28, and threatened a female member of staff with a small axe.

He was disturbed by another member of staff and ran off empty-handed. No-one was hurt.

Detective Inspector Geoff Payne said: "The man had his face covered with a scarf, but is black and about 6ft 1in.

"He was wearing a black hooded jacket with a hat underneath."

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Oh, what transports of delight mark bus centenary

By **MARIJKE COX**

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HUNDREDS of vintage vehicles are to descend on Kent Showground to celebrate the centenary of one of the country's oldest bus companies.

It will form part of the Heritage and Transport Show and Auction, organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society, which looks set to become an annual event following last year's success.

More than 200 vehicles will be at the showground, Detling, near Maidstone, on Saturday, April 9, including a 1926 Citroen B12 Paris Taxi, a 1928 Bentley, and an Austin Healey, returned from Australia to the UK in the 1930s.

Car enthusiasts can also see a 1934 Rolls Royce sports saloon – one of only six cars built in that style – and a 1937 Vauxhall GY Wingham, one of only six left in the world.

A 1938 Ford Model Eight, formerly owned by the late Arthur Negus, who presented Antiques Roadshow, and a 1948 Rover 75P3 sports saloon, used in television shows Foyles War and Miss Marple, will also be on display.

For visitors who prefer two wheels, a 1963 Reeves Silverstone Road Racer that held the 250cc Crystal Palace lap record in 1964 will be on show.

A spokeswoman for Kent Showground said the event would celebrate the centenary of Maidstone and District Motor Services Ltd, called M&D 100.

"Large numbers of buses with full livery will take over part of the showground and visitors will be able to take a ride on one of the vintage vehicles, built as long ago as 1928," she said.

"M&D 100 will also be an opportu-

University in college merger talks

THE University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has revealed it is considering merging some of its operations with MidKent College at its Maidstone campus, ***writes Jill Hurst***.

It comes amid concerns UCA is looking to close down the campus in a bid to cut costs.

But this week it confirmed it was "exploring the potential" of a joint venture with MidKent College.

Last week, questions for its future were raised by the Green Party's Stuart Jeffery.

Mr Jeffery said: "Students have raised concerns there are plans to relocate four of the 12 courses. We have not received assurances that the Maidstone campus will not be wound down and have repeatedly called for the university to clearly state that it will continue its long history with the town."

A UCA spokesman denied the campus would close but confirmed it was looking to make cost savings. He said: "UCA and MidKent College are exploring the potential for collaboration at their Oakwood Park campuses in Maidstone.

"These seek to strengthen further education and higher education provision in Maidstone and provide an enhanced quality of student experience. They also aim to gain efficiencies in the delivery of provision in challenging economic times. The proposals are at a very early stage and the potential collaboration will now be discussed with staff and students from both institutions."

With campuses at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester, UCA is home to more than 7,000 students of art, design, architecture, media and communications.

MidKent College's Maidstone campus houses workshops including brick-laying and welding as well as a learning resource centre.

ELEGANT: A Bentley Tourer from 1928, and left, buses from the M&D 100 display

nity for former employees and enthusiasts to get together to celebrate this chapter in the company's history."

M&D ran a large fleet – 900 at its peak – and many have been preserved. The event will showcase examples representing all eight decades of the company's existence, as well as some later ones that are still running for bus firms around the country today.

During the show, Paddock Wood-based auctioneers Lambert and Foster will hold a sale of tractors, commercial vehicles, cars, steam-related equipment and memorabilia.

There will be two auctions; one for vehicles and one for memorabilia, taking place at 11am and 1pm.

Admission for the event, from 10am-4pm, is £5 and under 12s get in free.

• ***For more information contact the Kent Showground on 01622 630975 or visit www.kentshowground.co.uk.***

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Ambulance chiefs breaking free from government control

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

FOUNDATION status has been awarded to the ambulance service covering Kent, giving it more freedom from central government.

As one of the first such organisations in the country, South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb) said it would be more accountable to the region and local people would have greater say in its future.

Chief executive Paul Sutton said: "This new status is good news for people across the South East as well as our staff, who will now have even more say and greater involvement in shaping the future of our service.

"It provides us with the perfect platform to improve the quality of care we provide at a much quicker pace. Anyone living in Kent, Surrey or Sussex can become a member of the trust, which means they will have the opportunity to shape their local ambulance service.

ROUTE MAP: Shaping SECAmb's direction

"Thousands of people across the region have already become members and I'd urge others to do the same."

NHS foundation trusts are still part of the NHS but are run locally and are accountable to patients, local people and staff, rather than the Department of Health.

SEACAmb will still have to meet national targets and will be regularly inspected, but it will have more freedom to develop its services.

A council of governors, which includes members of the public and staff recently elected by members of the trust, will work alongside the board of directors to steer the trust.

The council is made up of 14 elected public governors who represent six constituencies in the region, four elected staff governors and eight appointed governors from organisations that work closely with SECAmb, including local hospitals and councils.

Membership of the trust is free and will help the public stay in touch with the service through elected governors. To become a member, email ftmembership@secamb.nhs.uk, visit www.nhs-membership.co.uk/seas or call 01273 897 840.

A FLYING doctor from Kent has travelled to New Zealand to help victims of the Christchurch earthquake.

Dr Malcolm Russell, pictured above, who works with Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, is part of a 50-strong search and rescue team.

Dr Russell works as the clinical lead at the charity's Dunsfold base and left with two other doctors and two paramedics on Wednesday, last week, after the disaster struck the South Island.

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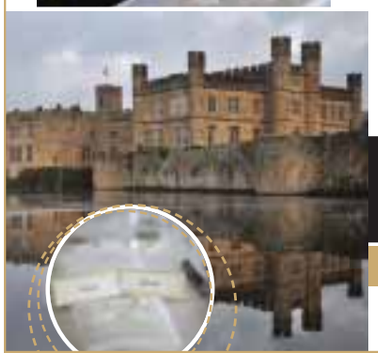

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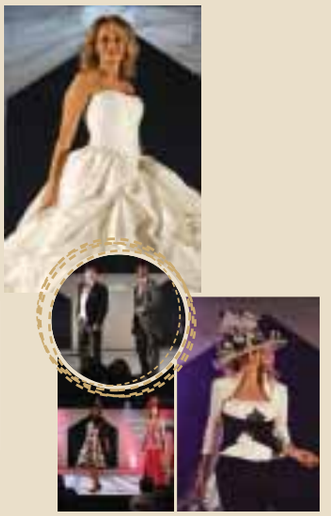

Conservationists bridging the gap for rare dormice

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

UNIQUE bridges that enable dormice to cross the road will be among the topics discussed at a conference dedicated to the protected species.

Last year a council in Rhondda Cynon Taf, south Wales, spent £190,000 on wire mesh tubes suspended between trees and poles to help the tiny mammals get from one side of a new bypass to the other.

Dormice populations have suffered a 70 per cent loss in the last 25 years and there are thought to be only 40,000 left in the UK, including the hazel dormouse most commonly found in Kent.

In an attempt to raise awareness of their plight, the Kent Mammal Group is organising a conference to be held at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus.

Group president Ken West said the potential for dormice crossings would be discussed at the event, but stopped short of personally endorsing the idea.

"We know that if the dormice get desperate enough for food, they will attempt to cross roads," he said. "But then they obviously put themselves in great danger; not only because of vehicles but also because of predators like owls.

"The issue of building bridges is a contentious one because not enough research has been carried out to see if they would even use them. I think the need has possibly been exaggerated."

More than a decade ago the Kent Mammal Group helped collect about 100 dormice living in the path of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link before moving them to other parts of the UK where the creatures had previously vanished.

Mr West said it showed how seriously the issue of conservation is taken by developers.

"To receive planning consent you have to show you are doing everything you can to mitigate the stress protected species may be put under," he added. "It can be very difficult to build a home on a site known to be used by dormice, and it's the same for roads and railway lines.

"You'll never stop a road being built, but you can delay it so a protected species can be moved first. If we didn't then such animals would become extinct very quickly, and that's something we want to avoid."

Recognisable by its furred bushy tail and orange-brown colour, the hazel dormouse lives in woodland, scrub and hedgerows. It rarely ventures to ground level, except during the winter when it hibernates under tree roots.

Debbie Bartlett from the University of Greenwich said: "The conference provides an excellent opportunity for our students to learn from the experts.

"They will gain an in-depth and up-to-the-minute knowledge about this fascinating animal, which is highly valued and protected under European, as well as UK, legislation.

"We are delighted to work with Kent Mammal Group and support its work by holding this conference."

The conference runs from 9am to 4.50pm on Saturday, March 12.

See www.kentmammalgroup.org.uk for more information.

AT RISK: It is thought there are only 40,000 dormice left in the UK, following as much as a 70 per cent loss over the past 25 years

Find more news updated daily
www.kentnews.co.uk

Father and son tax dodgers

A FATHER and son who swindled £6 million from the taxman used the cash to fund a life of luxury.

Marcus McKinley, 66, from Orpington, was jailed for four years and disqualified from being a company director for 10 years by Canterbury Crown Court.

His son Michael McKinley, 40, from Maidstone, received a 12-month jail sentence suspended for two years and was ordered to do 300 hours community service.

He was also disqualified from being a company director for seven years.

Both admitted three charges of cheating the public revenue and false accounting.

Between 1997 and 2004 the McKinleys had used a false invoicing scheme to conceal the withdrawal of £18m from the bank accounts of their construction companies Strandthorpe Building Services, and MCK Structural Services, both in Locksbottom.

They made more than £3m of fraudulent claims for the repayment of VAT and reduced Corporation Tax liability, while also failing to meet Construction Industry Scheme tax obligations. In total the tax evasion exceeded £6m.

The McKinleys used some of the cash to buy a villa in Spain, a racehorse, a BMW, and an £8,000 golf holiday overseas.

Shutting out bogus callers

CRIMINALS who target vulnerable people while posing as professional workmen are being highlighted as part of a national campaign, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Kent Police is among the organisations signed up to Operation Liberal, which aims to raise awareness of the tactics offenders use to gain access to their victims' homes.

Post offices, doctors' surgeries, charity shops, bingo halls and more will all receive posters in the coming weeks promoting the campaign.

"Bogus callers, rogue traders and distraction burglars prey on older or more vulnerable members of our communities before seizing their opportunity," said Chief Supt Neil Jerome.

"This can cause confusion and distress for the victim, and potentially the loss of their personal items or money. It can also have a negative impact on their health and confidence.

"Some items taken are of great sentimental value, and are irreplaceable to the victim.

"Operation Liberal reinforces the work done by Kent Police throughout the year to raise awareness of bogus callers or tradesmen. We also work closely with partner agencies and Kent County Council."

Just this week Kent Trading Standards warned of a bogus Red Cross collector knocking on doors in Tankerton.

The man, who wore a Red Cross sweatshirt and held a clipboard, was asking for information about elderly people in the area and saying the Red Cross could offer free transport to medical appointments.

PRECAUTIONS: A door chain means you can check a caller's identity without letting them in

When challenged by one resident he left promptly, but other residents said the caller had requested unwanted items to sell to raise money for the Red Cross.

Charity

The charity has confirmed the man has nothing to do with the organisation.

In May last year, a 95-year-old Sittingbourne woman had £1,600 stolen from her home after letting in a man who claimed to be an engineer from the local housing association.

That same month a 69-year-old man from Strood, near Rochester, opened his door to a thief posing as a representative from the electricity board.

He said the resident owed £200 and asked him to pay it now. But when the man went to fetch his wallet – which contained £2,000 in cash – the caller followed him into the house, snatched the money and fled.

Operation Liberal is aimed at arming residents with the information they need to spot when somebody is trying to trick them.

Det Con Peter Weston, of Kent Police's Force Intelligence Bureau, said: "Genuine salesmen, utility staff or traders will be happy to show identification badges.

"Our advice is to always use door chains or door bars, check who the caller is and confirm their identity. If you're not sure, don't open the door.

"If you see people you have not seen before, or works are being carried out that you are suspicious of, report your concerns to the police or Trading Standards."

Meanwhile, Kent Police Authority (KPA) has donated £11,280 to the county branch of CrimeStoppers.

KPA chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "We had to think very carefully as to whether we could afford to support the charity this year due to significant cuts to our police budget."

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

FACT FILE

Rogue trader tips

- Do not deal with doorstep callers offering work on your home or garden
- Use traders who are members of officially-recognised organisations
- Check the tradesperson is from the company they say they are from
- Ask for quotes in writing
- Call more than three traders to get a feel for an average price for the job
- Remember, traders must give you written notice of your right to seven days' cancellation when agreeing to do work at your home, including work gained from a cold call
- Contact your local police station if you have any doubts about whether a tradesperson is legitimate

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Separating parents are offered help with child maintenance

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

PARENTS splitting up are being encouraged to set up a face-to-face meeting with one of the county's new child maintenance consultants.

The service is provided by Child Maintenance Options, part of the non-governmental Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, responsible for child maintenance in Britain.

It is an extension of the support which is already offered via telephone and the internet.

Unavoidable

Work and pensions minister Maria Miller said: "The Government is clear about how important strong family relationships are for a child's wellbeing.

"If separation is unavoidable, then we want to do much more for parents at the time of the split and help them to put their children's interests first.

"Having a specialist available in Kent will help more people come to their own family-based maintenance arrangements, which are in the best interest of the child and offer value to the taxpayer."

Those parents unable to make arrangements through the service will be able to apply to the new child maintenance scheme that will eventually replace the Child Support Agency.

Last month, KoS revealed how more mums and dads with CSA cases against their former partners in Kent have been receiving child maintenance payments than ever before.

In total, the number of 'positive outcomes' across all 12 districts in Kent has risen from 16,970 in 2009 to 17,850 last year.

Call 0800 988 0988 to book a face-to-face consultation with a Child Maintenance Options consultant.

Find more news and sport updated daily
www.kentnews.co.uk

YOUNG Jonjo Heuerman from Wilmington, near Dartford, has walked 23 miles across London from Wembley stadium to West Ham's Upton Park stadium to raise money for the Bobby Moore Fund for Cancer Research UK.

The nine-year-old Hammers fan undertook the three-day walk in memory of his grandmother Lynda Heuerman and England legend Bobby Moore, who both died from bowel cancer.

He was seen off on his walk by footballing legend Sir Trevor Brooking, and arrived in the centre circle at Upton Park in front of 36,000 fans just before the kick-off against Liverpool last Sunday.

DOG walkers have had a rude awakening across Swale as community police officers and dog wardens launched a clampdown on owners who fail to clean up after their pets.

Angry residents took their concerns to a Neighbourhood Community Panel Meetings, so police and the council are sending out reminders to dog owners that failure to clean up will bring them an £80 fine.

PCSO Dave Ansbro said: "The inaction of an inconsiderate minority can significantly impact on the quality of life for communities. So, if you are observed committing the offence, you'll be issued with an on the spot fine of £80 – no excuses."

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LETTERS

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Airport plans: the real facts

I feel as a non-partisan observer, but with a keen interest in transport, a few records still need to be set straight.

1. There will soon be a brownfield site at the rear of Ramsgate Station. Ramsgate swimming pool is due to move to another location. What is more, it is almost adjacent to Manston Road, with the airport a few minutes up the road by bus. Even the existing bus service 38 from the front of Ramsgate Station only takes eight minutes from there, or six minutes from St Lawrence, which is nearer the brownfield site.

2. The plan is to build the new station at Cliffsend, not the airport. It will need a bus connection to the airport and building on non-airport owned green fields, which, unless a tunnel is built, will take about the same time to get there as it would from Ramsgate swimming pool.

3. It will be a long time before it will get a dedicated train service. Either way, it will affect the journey times to other Thanet stations, if indeed the high-speed train still continues to them.

4. But the car park is for rail travellers, not airport travellers. Two things are being confused. We are trying to reduce car journeys, not increase them. At present most of Thanet can walk to their high-speed station. Those who can't, will find sufficient space on the brownfield site or jump on a loop bus, which takes people from most of Thanet to Ramsgate railway station every few minutes.

5. Such money would be better spent upgrading the line from Ashford to Ramsgate, thereby reducing journey times.

DS Howard, Margate

Align duties to beat smugglers

You report that the Government has found £900 million to give to the Border Agency (KoS, February 20).

This must come at the expense of public services which are already being cut because of the deficit left by the last Labour government.

But is this really a sensible use of scarce public funds?

The money is said to be needed because of the increase in tobacco smuggling. Smuggling only happens because the duties between bordering members of the European Union are at such different levels. Surely the answer is to bring those duties closer together so that smuggling doesn't pay.

That means some degree of harmonisation, a commonsense measure.

Unfortunately, there are so many rabid anti-Europeans amongst Conservative backbenchers that common sense is rarely allowed a look-in where matters European are concerned

Lib Dem Cllr Michael Steed
Canterbury

OPINION: PFIZER'S DEAD. VIVA VIIV?

TIM GARBUTT questions whether announcements at Pfizer could mean a brighter future for Kent, and for the eradication of disease in the Third World

IT'S perhaps ironic that 2011 ushers in the United Nations International Year of Chemistry, and then Pfizer announces the closure of the largest US pharmaceutical plant in Europe here in east Kent.

When they should be burning brightly, the bunsen burners of Kent are turned low.

Clearly, the loss of upwards of 3,000 jobs will prove devastating, not only to Kent, but the wider pharmaceutical industry.

A reliance on tax-construction projects and the closure of Glaxo Dartford could mean Kent becomes almost totally reliant on small business and tax-grants from Whitehall.

It will be a shocking turnaround if Kent becomes reliant on Government to the extent of some of the Midlands manufacturing bailouts, such as British Leyland and Rover.

Yet does the economic earthquake at Pfizer herald a brighter future? For too long, Big Pharma has been reliant on mega-mergers, mega tax-breaks and unprofitable, minor vaccine variants for relatively minor First World ailments such as Viagra.

A glance at Pfizer, South Africa, shows even there, with a boiling infection rate from HIV, the main research procedures are for arthritis and athlete's foot.

Does a "Pfizer 2" in Kent provide a more strategic opportunity for growth?

Take Viiv – already a joint venture between Pfizer and Glaxo to develop HIV drugs.

There have been spectacular results: 19 per cent of the HIV market and about £1.6 billion in sales – with an £11bn market just in Western Europe. And still only a modest 15 per cent investment by Pfizer USA itself.

Considering the business of disease, the one market to be in is HIV. But how do HIV drugs pay, when the nations affected are the poorest on earth?

The UN Millennium Goals, including halving malaria, HIV and TB by 2015, are definitive policy for the world's governments and organisations.

The issue is not whether vaccines will be produced to end these diseases, but rather how quickly. Certainly within 20 years and probably within 10. Kent's public and politicians can and should take Pfizer off life support and go for growth.

Simply put, the world's Treasuries can print over £4,000bn of tax-funds for the bank bailouts. This is more money provided in three years than has ever been provided in Third World aid.

There's even a doubling of HIV infections in the over-50s – no doubt casting wrinkly caution to the wind before the Grim Reaper arrives.

A globalised world requires a scaling-up of ongoing vaccine investment – just look at the spread of bird flu, swine flu and even foot and mouth disease – in a strategic vaccine facility.

R&D link-ups with, say, the Liverpool School of Tropical Diseases – in a regeneration area like coastal Kent, would provide jobs, skills and research into the next phase of UNMDG diseases, eg Chagas and dengue, and provide the research and manufacturing muscle into the last few real UK ailments such as cancers, and cholesterol.

This Christmas has shown once again how unprepared we are with low stocks of even common flu vaccine, so surely the impetus for Kent should be a 'Farm and Pharma' strategic drugs facility – perhaps a UK Gov Plc bailout ought to buy up all the land and plant.

They should seize the opportunity to develop 'Pfizer 2' with a mix of Viiv and investment for vaccines and wider Third World requisites, such as malaria nets, vitamins, condoms, birth control pills and local Kent water filters – as well as the UK's own strategic vaccine needs.

We may be witnessing not the decline and fall of Pfizer and Viagra but the rise of Pfizer 2, Viiv – and East Kent standing proud and erect once more.

• Tim Garbutt is the managing director of Sincerity Agency, the ethical advertising agency (www.sincerityagency.com) based in east Kent and is standing as an Independent Green Mayor for Ramsgate to "Stop the Pollution, Stop the Corruption, Stop the Construction" in May 2011: lovekentloveramsgate.blogspot.com.

KOS media COMMENT

Supply teacher bill a staggering one

WHEN a teacher is absent from work, the options available to his or her school are admittedly few and far between.

Unlike in an office environment when co-workers can cover for one another, the one-teacher-per-class norm makes it nigh on impossible for most headteachers to avoid bringing in expensive supply staff.

But regardless of the reasons behind the figure, £7.6 million is still a staggering amount of money to be spent by Kent and Medway schools in just a single year.

It is also concerning to see such huge differences in the cash being shelled out, with the Hundred of Hoo paying £408,971 in 2009-10 compared to Dartford Grammar School's measly £1,097.

When such large amounts are being spent on supply teachers' wages, it is of the utmost importance that the children they teach – as well as the taxpayer – are receiving value for money.

In these tough economic times it is no longer acceptable for schools to employ glorified babysitters to ensure the children left teacher-less do not misbehave. Retired music teachers should not be paid to cover physics lessons just because they have experience in a school. You wouldn't pay an electrician to come and fix a leaky tap.

Headteachers are quite rightly given the power to decide who they should employ to work in their schools, but perhaps a little more restraint is needed.

Brief sighting of a magnificent beast

WHEN the biggest animals most of us see on a daily basis are horses and cows, it can be easy to forget what other incredible creatures we share our planet with.

Despite having been dead for two days before it washed up on the beach, Pegwell Bay's own 45ft sperm whale will live long in the memory.

Who can blame the crowds of people who gathered to catch a glimpse of this beautiful beast? They will likely never see anything like it in person again.

Have courage of convictions

I would never consider writing to the press if I was not prepared to publish my name, so I was surprised to read the diatribe against the Labour Government by that most courageous of writers, name and address supplied.

It is obvious that the writer realised that the letter was so stupid that they were embarrassed to put their name to it.

David Burgess, Hawkhurst

MPs elected by false manifesto

It is often said, not necessarily with supporting evidence, that politicians say one thing and do another.

With the health secretary, Andrew Lansley, announcing that he will not overturn the decision to close the A&E and maternity units at Queen Mary's Hospital we now have that evidence. In the election last year the Conservative manifesto stated: "We will stop the forced closure of A&E and maternity wards, so that people have better access to local services, and give mothers a real choice over where to have their baby, with NHS funding following their decisions."

This is, quite simply, a lie.

I am self-employed. If I misrepresent myself to a client I would feel the full force of the law against me. So how can a party manifesto solicit votes and return MPs when the manifesto is completely false?

Why is it that the MPs who stand behind it aren't prosecuted?

We will not forget. The local electorate will have the chance in 2015 to vote for a party whose manifesto isn't worth the paper it's written on or for a party that puts the electorate first because its manifesto is their manifesto.

John Hemming-Clark
Party Leader, Independents to Save Queen Mary's Hospital, Chislehurst

Mothers will go elsewhere

The NHS is high on false claims about transferring Maidstone's maternity services to Pembury Hospital, and now medical director at NHS West Kent, Dr James Thallon, tells KoS it is about "the need to focus expert resources on that small number who need interventions".

So why is the trust asking Maidstone women to make a journey of up to an hour along country roads while in labour?

His hope the controversy will die down is very wishful thinking. As incidents occur, it will grow. And latest GP surveys show many of these women will choose Ashford and Medway hospitals, due to the ghastly journey to Pembury.

That is assuming it takes place by September. Campaigners have KCC legal advice that the Secretary of State's decision could be flawed and we hope to take it to judicial review.

Dennis Fowle, chairman, Maidstone Action for Services in Hospital.

Labour spin on the council tax

It was useful to be in the public area at the budget-setting meeting of Medway Council.

The Tory administration fulfilled Chancellor George Osborne's promise of a council tax freeze, announced in September, 2008.

That idea was derided at the time by Labour's spokesmen in the then shadow cabinet (Yvette Cooper) and Local Government Association (Sir Jeremy Beecham).

It was therefore no surprise when Labour members voted against the budget.

Yet what have we seen today? Medway Labour claiming that they have frozen council tax.

It is something to remember when Labour people bid for your vote in the local elections this coming May. Some of us play it completely straight, others distort and spin.

John M Ward, former councillor for Rochester South & Horsted ward

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

EPPS
Pete and Stacey Epps would like to announce the birth of their son and Aiden's new little brother Lennon Nigel, born on the 12th February 2011 at 4.14am, weighing 8lb 3oz.

KIELY
Brendan and Nicola Kiely celebrate the birth of their second son Rhys Adam, born on 2nd February 2011, weighing 6lb 15oz.

KIRK
Sienna Megan born on 13th February 2011, weighing 7lb 12oz. Daughter to Toni and Dave in Ramsgate.

McNEIL-LAWSON
Rowan born on 4th February 2011, weighing 7lb 11oz. Son to Gillian and Ian McNeil-Lawson and brother to Logan in Maidstone.

MITCHELL
Harry Lee Mitchell, born 16th February 2011 weighing 7lb 15oz. Son to Lee Mitchell and Naomi Croucher.

STEVENS
Princee-Mia Ann born on 21st February 2011, weighing 7lb 11oz. Daughter to Jody and Damian in Ramsgate.

TRUSTY
Rachel and Matthew of Broadstairs are delighted to announce the birth of their son Isaac James Trusty, born on 25th January 2011 at QEQM Hospital weighing 6lb 8.5oz. Our most beautiful and precious son.

DEATHS

DAVIES
Paul Davies of Westgate-on-Sea died peacefully on 24th February 2011 in the Pilgrims Hospice, Margate. Funeral service at Thanet Crematorium at 1.20pm on 9th March.

DELIVETT
Alf Delivett of Folkestone, formerly of London, passed away peacefully after a long illness on the 22nd February 2011, aged 89.

FLETCHER
Jean Fletcher, a much loved mother and grandmother, now at peace with your husband Tony, will be sorely missed and never forgotten. Love you Mutti and love you mum.

WHITE
Susan Mary White (nee Symes) of Faversham passed away on 23rd February 2011. A much loved mother, grandmother and sister who will be sadly missed.

Hard truth behind a skilful budget

How one judges the budget set by Thanet Council depends upon your perspective.

The Tory Liberal Government has imposed a massive budget cut upon Local Government.They refused to listen to those telling them they were wrong to front load the cuts so severely.

Last year, I warned that Thanet Council's general reserves were dangerously low, especially with the economic storm we knew was coming from the global economic disaster. Labour has warned for a number of years that staff numbers were out of control.

Given that, and the looming election in May, there was a need to produce a budget that hides as far as possible the damage to services that a combination of Tory government and Tory council inevitably produce.

In those terms, this year's council budget is quite skilfully done.

This year will be painful enough for those staff handed redundancy notices, but most of the pain has been pushed into next year, well after the election.

Let's start with with formula grant receive from Goverment, £11.6m this year, a 5.3 per cent reduction. Next year £9.7m, a further 16.9 per cent reduction. Under Labour, this council has received large grants under Community Cohesion, Stronger Safer Communities, Working Neighbourhood Fund, etc. These have all been removed.

Then there are our reserves. Last year, general reserves fell below the level thought to be optimum.

The promise to replenish them came to nothing, and they now stand at 8.76 per cent of the net revenue budget. They should be at least 10 per cent.

With no usable general reserves, this year the administration has raided the earmarked reserves. These stood at £8m in April 2010, and will by depleted by £2.2m this year and by a planned £3.5m next year.

They will then stand at £2.1m, nearly £1m of which is for pensions, housing benefit and waste vehicles.

So where will the cash come from to fund £2m or 16.9 per cent cuts next year? Does anyone feel that Mr Pickles will bail us out?

Should we raise council tax? It's what the Tories usually do the year after an election – look at the Government's hike in VAT, and what KCC did two years ago. Unfortunately, council tax will have to rise 2.5 per cent next year just to replace the central government election bribe we received this year.

Should we raise charges? There must be a limit to what the market will take. The administration plans a £0.2m increase this year and £0.4m next year. Expect a huge rise in parking charges next year.

What's left are savings or efficiencies, or what I prefer to call service cuts and staff sackings: £1.9m next year, £2 .2m in 2012-13, £1m in 2013-14, £1.1m in 2014-15

This assumes that expected savings from cuts this year and outsourcing of services perform to plan.

This is the future for Thanet under this Tory/Liberal Government and a Tory-led council.

Cllr David Green
Ramsgate

Acts of kindness the way forward

With regard to recent letters in KoS, I believe the Princes Trust lets down aimless youngsters by failing to develop young persons' communication and practical skills, ref Teenage meets Old Age on BBC TV last night.

With the absence of secure employment, BBC TV introduced a series that brought two white and two black young volunteers to a retirement village in Surrey.

They worked 14-hour shifts supervised by paid carers. With appropriate management, all involved found it a positive experience.

The Princes Trust could do similar for mature householders trapped by fuel poverty, inadequate state pensions and infirmity or chronic disease, who would welcome practical help with tasks that would bring benefit to the young and old concerned.

Could the Princes Trust, and other charities adopt a granny or granddad for the most suitable youngsters, who could help them with de-cluttering, decorating and other chores for older citizens?

I am sure the Prince and Duchess of Cornwall would approve.

I refer to the internships that corporate businesses cynically take advantage of to fill vacancies with unpaid young graduates, or anyone willing to get work experience with no guarantee of paid work at the end.

The only way the young and old of this country are going to thrive is by realising what we gain from human contact and small acts of kindness, which dysfunctional government will never do.

Rita Grootendorst
By email

Green plan driving us off the roads

Steve Dawe of the Green Party says there is "almost universal support" for 20mph speed limits.

While some residents might say they want this speed limit and you can ask the question in such a way to get your universal support answer, take them away from 'their' road and any support seems to disappear.

How many of Britain's 34 million drivers do you see driving at 20mph? Actions speak louder than mere words.

Who would want to drive at these speeds at 2am in the morning, when 99 per cent of the population are asleep in their beds?

I think the real crux of his argument is that by forcing people to drive at these speeds, when it is totally unnecessary (and sometimes, in certain situations, this speed can be appropriate) such increased journey times will, as Steve Dawe said, force drivers into the Green Party nirvana of cycling and walking.

What about our road transport industry that supplies everything we buy? Are those deliveries going to be done by bicycle?

This is something Green Party policies choose to ignore.

People should remember that only a few weeks ago in this paper, the Green Party was rejoicing at the high price of fuel, so do not be swayed by 'Trojan horse' cherry-picked statistics and emotional rhetoric, as they carry out their malicious policy against the people of this country; in denying them a real transport choice.

Terry Hudson
Herne Bay

Sort out your own country, Cameron

Just when is David Cameron going to realise that he is not the son of Tony Blair or Margaret Thatcher?

He is just another run-of-the-mill politician.

He was elected to run this country, not the rest of the world.

No other leader is swanning around like him. They are dealing with the problems in their own country, and that is exactly what he should be doing

Surely it is not to much to ask, when we have our people stranded in Libya, that our government should make it a priority instead of being the last to respond?

Mr Cameron was elected to run this country, not to be a world leader, and the sooner he realises that, the better.

Come back here, Mr Cameron, and honour those election promises that you made so many of

RE Tucker
Sheerness

Don't take gamble on lives of horses

The Cheltenham Festival, which takes place in March, will mark the fourth anniversary of Animal Aid's Race Horse Deathwatch.

This is a unique online database that monitors all thoroughbred deaths on Britain's 60 racecourses.

Since its launch in March 2007, more than 630 horses have suffered fatal injuries on British racecourses. The data proves that, far from being a freak occurrence, race horses are routinely killed up and down the country, at a rate of one horse almost every other day.

The Cheltenham Festival has seen 32 horses lose their lives between 2000 and 2010. Four of those deaths occurred last year.

Despite relocating a particularly contentious fence for this year's festival, racing at Cheltenham remains highly challenging and potentially dangerous. This is, not least, because it features a number of crowded races and inexperienced horses and riders.

No matter how harmless a bet on the Cheltenham Festival may seem, the reality is that the racing at Prestbury Park pushes horses beyond their limits and that some invariably suffer and die.

Please don't back the cruelty.

For more information and to view our films about horse racing, please visit the Animal Aid website (www.animalaid.org.uk).

Fiona Pereira
Animal Aid
Tonbridge

Sit down for a chat over a cup of tea

I am writing to ask your readers to support 'Communi-tea Week', a national campaign that uses the Great British brew to help tackle problems of isolation and loneliness that thousands of older people face every day.

By the end of last year, more than half of people aged over 75 in Britain lived alone, and sadly more than a million pensioners said they often or always felt isolated, with almost half considering TV as their main source of company.

With this in mind, we'll be helping combat loneliness by inviting hundreds of older people to join us for some tea-related fun, from tea dances to tea tasting sessions, which are taking place in Bupa care homes across the UK throughout the week of March 21.

We also want others to pull together and host their own tea parties, inviting friends and neighbours to enjoy a cuppa. We're urging everyone to put on the kettle and contact someone they think may need their spirits lifting – a cup of tea is the perfect way to reach out and offer a friendly face.

After all, spending time with someone in need of a little company can really make a huge difference to their day, and what better way to do that than to sit down over a cup of tea!

For more information about your nearest event, or for more ideas about hosting your own, call the Communi-tea Week hotline on 0845 600 4622 or email communi-teaweek@bupa.com.

Siobhan Drane
Bupa's community affairs manager

Volunteer to find new career skills

A photography graduate is now training to be a nurse, another studied social sciences but now works with people with learning disabilities, and a medical student achieved first-hand experience of what it's like to be a carer through volunteering full-time.

Sadly, almost a million young people are unemployed at the moment and I want to encourage them to do something inspirational that will boost their employability while being supported to have a life-changing experience.

Volunteer with the UK's leading volunteering charity, CSV. Whether your passion is mentoring young people, supporting homeless people or enabling people with disabilities to live independently, CSV has opportunities waiting for you.

I spent my CSV gap year being the hands and feet of an extraordinarily inspirational woman, who lives a full and meaningful life despite being paralysed. Volunteers enable her to live independently and to retain control, despite acute physical impairment. It had a profound affect on my life and the benefits of volunteering are endless!

I found volunteering enormously rewarding; it increased my confidence, I learned new skills, I made friends and most importantly, I had a huge amount of fun.

For more information about gap year volunteering for people aged 18 to 35, call 0800 374 991 or visit www.csv.org.uk/gapyear

Rachel Burden,
BBC Radio Five Live Presenter

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent 2011 Campaign

Airport's welcoming presence

QUALITY ASSURED: Manston airport workers have successfully completed a City and Guilds Welcome Host Gold training course

MANSTON airport workers have received expert training on how to give their visitors the warmest of welcomes.

Thirty staff completed a City and Guilds course funded by county tourism champion Visit Kent, emphasising the importance of providing good customer service to people of all ages and nationalities.

Issues covered included first impressions, listening skills, problem solving, and meeting and exceeding visitors' expectations.

Chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "Training and developing our staff is a key commitment of Manston airport, as is making sure we provide the best service to all our customers.

"We are delighted to have been working with Visit Kent to ensure all our staff who deal directly with passengers are fully trained in the latest customer service practices.

Attractions

"We look forward to the next element of this programme – familiarising our customer service team with the huge range of tourist attractions and services Thanet and east Kent have to offer."

All 30 staff successfully completed their City and Guilds Welcome Host Gold training and are now 'quality assured' to meet and greet passengers landing at the airport.

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "Manston is a tremendous asset to our county. When passengers land there we know they will be given the warmest welcome to Kent possible.

"Those first impressions will make a huge difference to people coming to our county on business, for a short break or longer holiday, or to share in the 2012 Olympic celebrations."

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Are you running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are your employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or are you funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

Send your good news stories to steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817136.

Confidence is key to breaking the barrier

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A TRAINING provider dedicated to reducing the number of people on benefits has helped more than 1,600 Kent job-seekers secure employment in the last three years.

The national welfare-to-work organisation TNG – which has offices in Canterbury, Chatham, Gravesend, Sheppey, Ramsgate and Sittingbourne – finds jobs for one-in-three people who walk through its doors in the county.

Part of the Avanta Group, the service specialises in helping people who suffer from particular barriers including a lack of qualifications or work experience, low confidence, health-related issues, childcare problems, a criminal record, and so on.

One success story is Rebecca Youdle, 18, from Chatham, who left school at 16 and was so painfully shy that the thought of an interview terrified her.

"I didn't think I would get any benefit from going to TNG but thought I would give it a go anyway," said Rebecca, who is now working in a supermarket thanks to the help of her personal job adviser, Mark Flitter.

WORKING: TNG aims to break barriers

"As it turned out, TNG was incredibly helpful. I learned job search skills that actually work, I learned how to compile a CV and how to tailor it to different employers, I learned interview techniques and, importantly, I learned to persevere and not give up."

In addition to helping people into work, TNG also delivers training to employed people wishing to gain vocational qualifications, develop new skills and improve their career prospects.

The organisation specialises in assisting harder-to-reach groups such as the long-term unemployed, lone parents, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities.

Kent regional manager Heidi Griffin said: "At TNG we don't just help people work on their CV and give them a pile of job adverts. That doesn't help. We look at addressing the real issues around their unemployment, and almost everyone we see has a confidence issue.When someone becomes unemployed their confidence often takes a real knock.

"Unsuccessful applications, especially in challenging economic times such as these, can be demoralising and lead to a real lack of motivation.

"Rebecca is a good example of the work TNG does across the county. We worked with her to identify her barriers and helped her to take steps to address them.

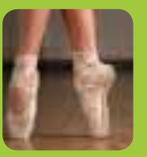
"We can't solve every problem but we can help and support people as they take steps in the right direction.

"Rebecca wanted to work but she had lost motivation and confidence after being rejected. We helped her address those issues and, alongside our other workshops, she was able to find work and move off benefits."

• Visit www.tng.uk.com for more information.

What course will you choose?

Enrol now for 2011



Visit www.kent.gov.uk/adulted or call 0845 606 5606 to enrol today!

KENT ADULT EDUCATION

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND SKILLS

Kent County Council

Train & Retrain

Sponsored by KENT ADULT EDUCATION

Healthy competition for paramedic degree slots

ASPIRING paramedics are competing for a place on a new degree course offered by the University of Greenwich at Medway.

The BSc in paramedic science combines learning in the workplace – as part of an ambulance crew – with academic study, assessments and laboratory exercises.

Delivered in partnership with the South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust, the degree programme has already attracted more than 230 applicants competing for just 15 available places.

Programme leader Dave Kerr said: "This is a degree that leads directly to a professional job and promising career path, so we're seeing more and more people regarding life as a paramedic as a serious option.

"The role has grown beyond recognition in recent years. Paramedics may once have been perceived merely as ambulance drivers but now they have responsibility for all sorts of areas of pre-hospital patient care.

"They have to make on-the-spot assessments about what care is needed and are also expected to diagnose heart attacks, for example, or administer some types of drugs."

Greenwich has invested heavily in facilities for the new degree, including two fully-equipped laboratories which have all the medical equipment used by paramedics in practice.

They also contain life-sized mannequins, specially developed to replicate the chest movements and breathing patterns of real-life patients who may be suffering heart attacks or strokes.

Mr Kerr said: "The degree programme will be producing graduates with a tremendous range of skills, which will benefit local health services.

"Increasingly, registered paramedics are to be found working for institutions other than ambulance trusts such as out-of-hours GP providers, minor injuries units, walk-in centres and various health providers.

"I also expect to see many of our graduates quickly progressing to senior roles."

LONG ARM OF THE ARM: Students made a training film for Kent Police

It's an even fairer cop

PERFORMING arts students at K College took part in a project designed to promote the Equality Act to Kent Police.

They spent two days filming scenarios at the police training school in Maidstone, which will be used as an e-learning tool for officers and support staff.

A spokesman said: "The project provided an opportunity for community engagement for the police and a real-life work experience for the actors, giving our students a chance to extend their performance skills in a real workplace situation. The scenarios cover discrimination around gender, age, sexual orientation, race and disability."

The spokesman added that the training tool has a potential audience of 6,000 police personnel across Kent.

Course's clear career goal

BEXLEY College has teamed up with Charlton Athletic FC to offer a sports coaching qualification for 16 to 18-year-olds.

The 20-week course starts next month, combining a BTEC level one diploma in sport and leisure with an FA level one football coaching qualification.

A spokesman said: "This newly-formed course will not only enable students to learn in the classrooms but also combine coaching and practical training at one of Charlton Athletic Community Trust's sports facilities.

"Bexley College and Charlton provide highly qualified and experienced trainers, there to help students reach their potential and move closer to their dream career."

Professional Development Courses

Half Day Awareness Courses
Only £24 each

DYSPRAXIA AWARENESS
5 April 2011 or 7 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm
INTRODUCTION TO ADD/ADHD
24 April 2011 or 26 May 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm
CYBER BULLYING
9 March 2011 or 15 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm
BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT
9 March 2011 or 15 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm
ANXIETY AND MOOD DISORDERS
29 March 2011 or 21 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm
INTRODUCTION TO ASD
12 March 2011 or 17 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm

Full Day Awareness Courses
Only £48 each

INTRODUCTION TO DYSLEXIA AND EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH DYSLEXIC STUDENTS
22 March 2011 or 17 May 2011, 9.30 - 3.30pm

All courses are delivered at the Training Solutions Business Centre at Manston Park.

For more information, please contact the **Training Solutions Team** on **01843 605032** or email **training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk**

Thanet College TRAINING SOLUTIONS At Work. Through Work. For Work

MidKent College's dedicated training consultancy provides a professional service that is dedicated to the needs of local companies. Training courses can be delivered in-company or in the first class facilities available at the College.

Subject areas available include:

- Building & Civil Engineering
- Commercial & Business
- Construction Crafts
- Education
- Electrical
- Floristry
- Health & Safety
- Health & Social Care
- Holistics
- Hospitality
- ICT
- Logistics
- Management
- Office Skills
- Plumbing
- Security

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone for more information.
01634 402020

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Property Sales Executive Field Based
Medway, Maidstone & Swale

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ARCHANT KOS Media is seeking a highly motivated person to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio of newspapers, magazines and digital sales and to develop sale within an exciting new property portal.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships.

We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role.

You will need to be a self-motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator and presenter, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Jason Pyne, Development Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth,
Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Edenbridge Town Council

Groundsman

To work in the Council's parks, playing fields, cemetery, open spaces, on Public Rights of Way (under KCC authority), and other contracts entered into by the Council. To assist with the maintenance of the amenities areas including making sure that the parks, recreation grounds and playgrounds are kept clean and litter free. To maintain a high standard of work and to ensure that the Council's name is kept in good standing.

It is a full-time permanent post attracting a salary of **£15,594 per annum.** Application forms can be collected from **Edenbridge Town Council, Doggetts Barn, 72A High St, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5AR** or by email from **townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk**

The closing date for applications is **noon Monday 7 March 2011**
Interviews to be held on **Monday 14 March**

National Trust

A more rewarding role

P/T Finance Assistant

£3,855.26 pa | Chartwell, Westerham
To find out more about this important role, please visit our website and search using reference NT11/06203. Closing date: 17 March 2011. Provisional interview date: 1 April 2011.

www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk

Committed to equal opportunities.
Registered charity number 205846.

SUPPORT WORKERS

Required
To assist in the provision of complete range of social, physical and personal care
to adults with learning and physical disabilities, with the aim to enhance their independence in all areas.
Position part-time. Varied hours.
Need to drive due to rural location in between Sittingbourne and Faversham.
For more information contact Sally Brooks
Tel: 01795 886220 or
email: ellenscourt@btconnect.com

Port Regis Residential Care Home for the Elderly in Broadstairs
require
Day Carers
Full time or Part time
Tel: 01843 602266

Rochester CATHEDRAL

Relief Catering Manager/Chef

needed for busy tearooms to cover weekends and other days as required (18 hours per week initially, increasing as additional cover is needed).
The Cathedral Tearooms is open daily from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm and has a reputation for high-quality food which is all cooked on the premises and we are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced chef used to working in a fast-paced retail environment.

Experience of management, including handling money, as well as health and hygiene qualifications are required.
For further details and an application form please contact Pamela Epps by email on deanspa@rochestercathedral.org or by
telephone 01634 810071
Closing date for applications 18 March 2011

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Westbank Care Home Borough Green
require
Registered Nurses Days/Nights
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To work in a 40 bedded nursing home.
In-house training provided.
Please ring for information
01732 780066

Self motivated, flexible sales people required to sell marketing services for local businesses.

Great opportunity for the right applicants. Potential to sell to a huge untapped market with minimum competition.

Applicants must demonstrate a proven sales track record, have their own car, smartphone and be computer literate.

Apply: info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com
or telephone: 01227 733444

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.
01622 671716

London Care
Passion for Independence, Respect for Choice

Care Workers

Rochester, Gillingham, Strood, Walderslade, Twydall, Lordswood

- Evening working hours
- Weekend working hours
- Full training to NVQ Level 2
- 28 days of paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Must have good written and spoken English

London Care PLC is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and people with disabilities living in their own homes.

Contact Jill or Jak, Monday to Friday, on 01634 828 928 or email amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk

London Care Plc is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.londoncare.co.uk

CROSS ROADS CARE

Carer Support Workers (Bank Staff)

We are currently seeking dedicated Carer Support Workers (bank) to join our team to work with clients of all ages providing Carers with that all important Carers Break. We work on a flexible roster and you will be required to work some evenings and some weekends.

Applicants should hold NVQ2/3 in social care. We offer a bespoke quality service for carers of people of all ages at a time when they need it most.

To apply or to find out more: please phone 01634 868885 between 9am and 4pm for your application form or email: medwaycrossroads@btconnect.com

PART-TIME COOK

required for residential home in the Meopham and Wrotham area. Alternate weekends and plus holiday cover. To cook for 50 plus elderly residents. Good home cooking skills required.

Please call Karen or Julie - Tel: **01732 822215** or email: **holywellpark@aol.com**

WEEKEND DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

required
to work in a residential home in Faversham for the elderly.
9 – 2 pm.
For further details please call
01795 532629 between 10 – 4 pm

Due to recently secured workload, GSE Design & Build Ltd has an immediate need to increase its direct labour force. We have a requirement for

Carpenters, Skilled Labourers and Ground-workers

with CSCS / CPCS.

Closing date for applications: Friday March 11th 2011

Please contact Victoria Wadie
T: 01233 501301
E: victoria.wadie@gse-group.com

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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

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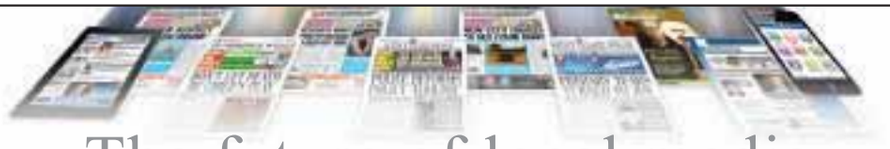

The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Sales Manager

We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced sales professional to drive new business and manage existing clients.

The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills, a self starter; tenacious and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability. You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media (although this is not essential,) will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media. Knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be beneficial.

Telephone Sales Executive Ashford

You will play a key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates should possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ideally you will have a media sales background, although this is not essential as full training and support is provided.

Recruitment Executive Ashford

You will ideally have a recruitment agency background, possess a track record in telephone sales and negotiation, be well organised and combine excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured recruitment professional.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. All candidates must have own transport.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Christine Davidson, Commercial Director
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

Senior reporter

Archant KOS Media is looking for an experienced, enthusiastic, self-starter in a rare opportunity to join our senior reporting team. Providing balanced, insightful, engaging copy week in, week out for our award-winning weekend titles Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday. As well as our midweek e-editions and websites, the role is demanding but richly rewarding.

You will have worked as a senior reporter within the local or national press or have recently passed your NCE exams and will be prepared to take an integral, responsible, role within a friendly newsroom. You will be capable of bringing in off-diary exclusives and be full of ideas.

Salary is competitive.

Junior reporter

Archant KOS Media is seeking a junior reporter, in a rare opportunity to join its editorial team. Ideally you will have taken your NCE preliminary exams, but training will be provided.

You must be highly motivated, have a determination to learn quickly and succeed, and be prepared to play a key role in a friendly newsroom. You must not be shy of responsibility and have gained some experience within the local newspaper industry.

Serving our weekend titles, Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday, you will also work for our midweek e-editions and our websites. The role will require hard work, bags of energy, enthusiasm, and a real love of local newspapers and serving our loyal readers.

Send a CV and covering letter to:
Chris Britcher, Editor (News)
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or email: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

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TEACHER OF FRENCH
FULL TIME
Required for September 2011

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Teacher of French. The successful candidate will be delivering GCSE French as part of our English Baccalaureate.

Hugh Christie Technology College is a good school with outstanding features.

Located in a total new build, the school has a national and international reputation for the use of technology and curriculum innovation.

For further information contact **Jenny Rutherford**
jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: **18th March 2011**

Interviews to be held: week commencing 28th March 2011

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. As part of this process, all successful candidates will be required to apply for an enhanced CRB disclosure.

...**Jobs for Kent** continued from page 30

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone are seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Personal Tutor — Ref: SESS10

Hourly Rate: £12.06 - £15.54 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Fixed Term Contract
Maidstone

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Technician in Hair and Beauty — Ref: M0296

Salary: £15,453- £17,243 per annum
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Medway

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 16 March 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · RBLI · MidKent College

jobsforkent.co.uk

Accountancy

Finance Assistant

Westerham
Salary £3,855.26 per annum Permanent, part time (eight hours per week) Ref: NT11/06203 About the rolelt's important that we continue to take great care of this special place, helping everyone to enjoy these wonderful surroundings. That's why we need to make sure that every penny counts, and that our finances are in fantastic order. Organised and numerate, you'll manage the administration of all property monies, including daily reconciliation, fundraising events, banking and change. In everything you do - and everything we do - you'll champion excellent financial management, making sure we're leaving an effective audit trail. You'll also help to produce spreadsheets of statistical information and will be happy to respond to any telephone queries in a polite and efficient manner. In this role you'll usually work Wednesday and Thursday, including alternate weekends and some Bank Holidays. About you Naturally, you're incredibly good with numbers. You'll already have some book keeping/accounting experience behind you, and a good knowledge of financial and cash accounting processes. We'd like you to have cash handling experience too. You're confident using MS Office, Excel especially, and you'll enjoy working with lots of different people. About usConserving beautiful places for generations to come is what we're all about. Special places like Chartwell - the family home and garden of Sir Winston Churchill. We want to make sure every person who comes into contact with us goes away having had an experience they'll remember forever. Care and consideration are part and parcel of what we do and goes hand-in-hand with your work as our Finance Assistant. Apply For the chance to be part of something rewarding, apply at http://vacancies.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk/job-detail.asp?id=6203 Closing date: 6 March 2011. Provisional interview date: 11 March 2011. Committed to equal opportunities. Registered charity number 205846.
To apply/more information:
National Trust
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: NT11/06203

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

…….a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for…

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2
£15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata + SEN Allowance (£1,177)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am – 3.45pm), term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 11.3.11

Westlands Academies Trust

THE WESTLANDS SCHOOL & THE WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Interested in a career in teaching and joining our Graduate Teacher Training Programme?

Westlands Academies Trust has vacancies for graduates who wish to undertake school-based teacher training, whilst receiving financial support. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Applications are invited from graduates who are interested in teaching Science or Design Technology at Secondary level, and in the Primary sector, all subjects in the curriculum.

Westlands Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals.

Application forms are available from the school or online. These should be returned with a CV and letter of application. CVs are not accepted without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 9 March 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Thamesview SCHOOL

with Business and Enterprise status

Headteacher:
Rhiannon Hughes NB.Ed. Hons

TEACHER OF HAIRDRESSING

(Maternity Cover)

Required for an immediate start
Salary – Unqualified Teachers Scale

Are you:

- An enthusiastic and imaginative practitioner, who is passionate about teaching and learning?
- Someone who has high aspirations for students, and can contribute new and innovative ideas to curriculum development?
- Looking to join a strong, supportive and forward thinking vocational team?
- Eager to work in a new salon and school environment?
- Keen to take a lead in developing the curriculum in your specialist area?

This is an excellent opportunity to develop your teaching skills and to be part of many new initiatives started by our outstanding vocational team. Flexible working hours will be required.

Thamesview is an 11-16 non-selective Foundation High School. It is located in a pleasant area of Gravesend surrounded by open space and farmland with views of the River Thames to the north east, close to London and with easy access to airports, Ebbsfleet International Station and the Channel Tunnel.

We were fortunate to be in the last wave of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, which was the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. Our new-build school, which opened fully in September 2010 is state-of-the art, and designed to motivate and engage our learners. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

If you think this role sounds exciting, Please contact: 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information.

Closing Date: 14th March 2011
Interviews: Week commencing 21st March 2011

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.

Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

Rainham School for Girls

(A Specialist Technology College & Training School)
Derwent Way, Rainham
GILLINGHAM Kent ME8 0BX
(NOR 1532)
Head Teacher: Ms K Roberts

Full Time Caretaker

Required from 1st April 2011 37 hours per week. Salary £15,039 - £16,440 plus regular overtime (one regular evening per week and on call one weekend in four)

Rainham School for Girls represents a culture of high aspiration, high expectation and success. Our aim is to provide an outstanding learning experience for all students within a safe, disciplined and caring environment.

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application forms and further details are available from Mrs P Collins, PA to the Headteacher. Tel. 01634 362746, Fax: 01634 388334. email: pcollins@rsg.org.uk

Closing date: Thursday 17th March 2011

Part Of The Kemnal Academies Trust

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Distributors Wanted Run your own business without the usual risks... and help people save money! choose your own hours full training and support up-front bonuses earn a second income on-going commission no stock to carry Find out more! Call: 0800 781 2433 www.minibills.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Utility Warehouse
alanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

I, Luke Bendall hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for the variation of a premises license in respect of the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. To permit alterations to the licensed premises in accordance with plans deposited with the Council

In respect of the premises situated at 139, Ashford Road, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1ED and to be known by the sign of Lion of Kent, Restaurant and Grill (currently known as the Kentish Yeoman). The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m – Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.maidstone.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 25th March 2011.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

To advertise in this section ✆ 01303 817040

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

We Edwards Beers and Wines Ltd give notice that we have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for variation of the following licensable activities;

1. The hours for sale of alcohol by retail

In respect of the premises situated at 104, Week Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1RH known by the sign of Premier Cellar.

The application can be viewed at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ during normal office hours or visit website www.maidstone.gov.uk

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 31st March 2011

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

Public Notice

I Benoy Sebastian are applying for a new Premises License at the Pioneer Food Land, 9 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5TP. My application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR. I am applying for the following licensable activities Sale of Alchohol (7am – 11pm, Monday – Sunday)

Should you make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view my application by contacting the Council on 01634 337107 or 377108 by 31st March 2011.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Susan Jayne Armstrong trading as S J Armstrong of 11 Medway Road, Crayford, Dartford, Kent DA1 4PN is applying to change an existing licence as follows

- to keep an extra 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailer at the operating centre at Unit 8 Mulberry Way, Belvedere, Kent, DA17 6AN

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

Thamesview SCHOOL
with Business and Enterprise status
Headteacher:
Rhiannon Hughes NB.Ed. Hons

ARE YOU A UK GRADUATE IN ENGLISH, MATHS, SCIENCE OR FRENCH? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN TEACHING?

We are delighted to be offering four GTP placements, one in each of the subject areas listed above, under the GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME at Thamesview School for a September 2011 start. The placement is run in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University and leads to full Qualified Teacher Status on successful completion of the training programme.

Thamesview is an 11-16 non-selective Foundation High School. It is located in a pleasant area of Gravesend surrounded by open space and farmland with views of the River Thames to the north east, close to London and with easy access to airports, Ebbsfleet International Station and the Channel Tunnel.

We were fortunate to be in the last wave of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, which was the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. Our new-build school, which opened fully in September 2010 is state-of-the art, and designed to motivate and engage our learners. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

If you think these roles sound exciting, Please contact: 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information.

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Closing Date: Monday 14th March 2011.

Interviews: Week Commencing Monday 21st March 2011.

Successful candidates will be invited for interview at the school and our recommendations will then be passed to Canterbury Christ Church University. The University will then select candidates for further interview.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.

Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

Council Tax 2011/12
For the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

On 23 February 2011, the Borough Council set the Council Tax for the financial year 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

The charges are as shown below:-

2011/12	BAND A £	BAND B £	BAND C £	BAND D £	BAND E £	BAND F £	BAND G £	BAND H £
Royal Tunbridge Wells	966.80	1,127.93	1,289.07	1,450.20	1,772.47	2,094.73	2,417.00	2,900.40
Southborough	966.25	1,127.30	1,288.34	1,449.38	1,771.46	2,093.55	2,415.63	2,898.76
Capel	928.24	1,082.96	1,237.66	1,392.37	1,701.78	2,011.20	2,320.61	2,784.74
Benenden	921.23	1,074.77	1,228.31	1,381.85	1,688.93	1,996.01	2,303.08	2,763.70
Bidborough	971.45	1,133.37	1,295.27	1,457.18	1,780.99	2,104.82	2,428.63	2,914.36
Brenchley	930.56	1,085.65	1,240.75	1,395.84	1,706.03	2,016.21	2,326.40	2,791.68
Cranbrook & Sissinghurst	950.46	1,108.87	1,267.28	1,425.69	1,742.51	2,059.33	2,376.15	2,851.38
Frittenden	918.79	1,071.93	1,225.06	1,378.19	1,684.45	1,990.72	2,296.98	2,756.38
Goudhurst	927.59	1,082.19	1,236.79	1,391.39	1,700.59	2,009.79	2,318.98	2,782.78
Hawkhurst	937.83	1,094.14	1,250.44	1,406.75	1,719.36	2,031.97	2,344.58	2,813.50
Horsmonden	941.90	1,098.88	1,255.87	1,412.85	1,726.82	2,040.78	2,354.75	2,825.70
Lamberhurst	930.70	1,085.82	1,240.93	1,396.05	1,706.28	2,016.52	2,326.75	2,792.10
Paddock Wood	963.52	1,124.11	1,284.69	1,445.28	1,766.45	2,087.63	2,408.80	2,890.56
Pembury	949.79	1,108.08	1,266.38	1,424.68	1,741.28	2,057.87	2,374.47	2,849.36
Sandhurst	936.81	1,092.94	1,249.08	1,405.21	1,717.48	2,029.75	2,342.02	2,810.42
Speldhurst	938.60	1,095.03	1,251.47	1,407.90	1,720.77	2,033.63	2,346.50	2,815.80

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Head of Finance and Governance

HALE OAK ROAD SEVENOAKS WEALD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hale Oak Road, Sevenoaks Weald between Long Barn Road and Penhurst Road.

The Order will become effective on 21st March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 25th March 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Bowzell Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

HIGHWAYS – District of Sevenoaks

IDE HILL ROAD, BOUGH BEECH - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech between B2027 Clinton Lane and Lakeside Close.

The Order will become effective on 7th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: B2027 Clinton Lane, Four Elms Road, Green Lane and Ide Hill Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electricity supply.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge and Malling

(BLACKMANS LANE, HADLOW) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Blackmans Lane outside Bourne Garth to The Poplars on or after Monday 7th March 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road/Hadlow Road, Three Elm Lane.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to install gullies and pipework to prevent flooding. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Sara Fletcher on 08458 247 800.

(VICARAGE CLOSE, AYLESFORD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Vicarage Close on or after Monday 7th March 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to enable duct installation. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Kenton Stewart on 01795 435729.

(BROADWATER ROAD, EAST MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Broadwater Road at the railway bridge on or after Sunday 13th March 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Well Street, Stickens Lane, Clare Lane.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for installing an access gate track side. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Robert Lupinda of Bam Nuttall Ltd on 01892 512255.

(LABOUR IN VAIN ROAD WROTHAM)(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Labour in Vain Road Wrotham from outside Simmonds Builders Yard (between the access points for Finches Farm) on or after Monday 21st March 2011 for a period of up to3 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Tumblefield Road and Plaxdale Green Road and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to construct a new soakaway and drainage system . Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Jamie Finch on 08458247800.

(PIZIEN WELL ROAD, WATERINGBURY)(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pizien Well Road from Old Road to Park Road on or after Monday 7th March 2011 for a period of up to 30 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Nettlestead Lane, Gibbs Hill, B2015 Maidstone Road/Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge Road.

Kent Highway Services and Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for cleansing highway drainage, completion of CCTV survey, install a new gully to prevent flooding and gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact the Drainage Team on 08458 247 800 or John Adsley of SGN on 01233 714082.

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by through traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 4th October 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name: **Manor Road**
Extent: Entire length
Date: 4th October 2010 for 25 weeks
Restriction: Temporary suspension of pedestrian access to allow diversion traffic.

Road Name: **Windmill Street, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Railway Place and Lord Street
Date: 4th October 2010 for 30 weeks
Restriction: Prohibition of northbound traffic

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway reconstruction.

(NEW HYTHE LANE, EAST MALLING & LARKFIELD) (PUFFIN CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to convert the existing Zebra Crossing to a Puffin Crossing on New Hythe Lane East Malling & Larkfield situated outside the common boundary between Numbers 13 and 14 New Hythe Lane.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide a safe place for pedestrians to cross as there are concerns over pedestrian safety within the area. The existing Zebra Crossing is used by an increased number of school children and shoppers using nearby facilities has a high population from the surrounding residential housing estates.

A Puffin Crossing has facilities to cancel pedestrian demands when they cross in the gaps and to allow for varying clearance times after the pedestrian green signal, to allow for slow pedestrians without harassment from drivers. The pedestrians in the area would therefore benefit from the introduction of a Puffin Crossing to assist with the high pedestrian movement throughout the area

Copies of the plan showing this proposal, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR, and Stone Parish Council Office, Recreation Ground, London Road, Stone, DA9 9DQ.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (PROVISION OF WAITING) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO. 8) ORDER 2011 (A226 LONDON ROAD, DARTFORD) (PEDESTRIAN & TOUCAN CROSSING) (STONE PLACE ROAD DARTFORD) (PUFFIN CROSSING) (HEDGE PLACE ROAD, DARTFORD) (PEDESTRIAN CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE NEW ROADS AND STREET WORKS ACT 1991 AND THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 (A226 LONDON ROAD, STONE) (CONVERSION OF FOOTWAY TO SHARED CYCLE TRACK) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE CYCLE TRACKS ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Shedule 8 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, intends to extend the existing "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions on A226 London Road, Stone in Dartford and under;

Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, the Kent County Council intends to install crossing points on all four arms of the junction of A226 London Road, Stone Place Road and Hedge Place Road, of the type detailed in column 1 at the location described in column 2 of Schedules 1 and 2 hereto and under;

Section 1 of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 and Sections 65 and 66 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 the Kent County Council intends to convert a footway to a cycle track of the type as described in column 1, at the location described in column 2 of Schedule 3 hereto;

This scheme will include the removal of the existing Zebra crossing and the introduction of signal control on all four arms of the junction. As the proposed pedestrian crossings are to be controlled within the traffic signal scheme the standard zig - zag road markings will not be installed.

The existing segregated cycle route on the southern side of London Road will be extended as a shared route to a new Toucan crossing on London Road just east of the junction with Hedge Place Road. A new shared route will be provided on the north side of London Road to link from the new London Road Toucan crossing around the radius and into Stone Place Road to the north. At this point the shared route will terminate just before a new controlled crossing with pedestrian (Puffin) type aspects which will cross Stone Place Road.

The existing footway on the south east side of London Road will be widened around and into Hedge Place Road. At this point pedestrians will cross Hedge Place Road at a controlled crossing.

The existing Zebra Crossing on the western arm of London Road will be removed and replaced by a pedestrian refuge island with a staggered pedestrian route.

Waiting restrictions in the area of the crossroads will also be extended to improve safety and sight lines.

Copies of the plan showing this proposal, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR, and Stone Parish Council Office, Recreation Ground, London Road, Stone, DA9 9DQ.

Anyone wishing to support, or object to the "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions proposal should write to Mrs Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1560300" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 28th March 2011.

Schedule 1

(New Pedestrian Crossing)

Type of Crossing	Location
1. Toucan	A226 London Road, Stone 28.5 metres east of its junction with Stone Place Road.
1. Pedestrian	B2174 Hedge Place Road, Stone 12.0 metres south east of the mid point of its junction with A226 London Road.
1. Pedestrian	Stone Place Road, Stone, 13.5 metres north west of the mid point of its junction with A226 London Road.

Schedule 2

(Conversion of Pedestrian Crossing)

Type of Existing Crossing	Converted to (Type of Crossing)	Location
1. Zebra	Staggered Pedestrian	A226 London Road, Stone 23.5 metres west of the mid point of its junction with Stone Place Road.

Schedule 3

(Conversion of Footway to Cycle Track)

Type of Cycle Track	Location
Shared Segregated:	on the northern footway of the A226 London Road, Stone from the mid point of its junction with Stone Place Road, eastwards for a distance of 32.0 metres.
	on the southern footway of A226 London Road, Stone from a point 14.5 metres east of the mid point of its junction with Hedge Place Road, eastwards for a distance of 15.0 metres.

HIGHWAYS – District of Dover

VARIOUS ROADS, GREAT MONGEHAM, DISTRICT OF DOVER) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of this Order will be to introduce double yellow lines on the following lengths of roads

NORTHBOURNE ROAD	on the south-eastern side from the junction with Willow Road for a distance of 25 metres in a south easterly direction
WILLOW ROAD	on the south eastern side from the junction with Northbourne Road for a distance of 52 metres in a south westerly direction

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.dover.shepway@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 28 March 2011.

Highways – Borough of Dartford

(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4 (1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the first named Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of roads

Littlebrook Manor Way	On both sides from the junction with Bob Dunn Way to the junction with Rennie Drive.
Rennie Drive	On both sides from the junction with Littlebrooke Manor Way to the junction with Marsh Street.
Binnie Road	Both sides entire length.
Marsh Street	On both sides from the junction with Bob Dunn Way to the entrance to Longreach Sewage Works
Halcrow Avenue	Both sides entire length

The effect of the Order will also be to introduce no waiting 6.00pm to 6am the following day every day (7 days) on Brunel Way for the entire length.

(BINNIE ROAD AND HALCROW AVENUE, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the second named Order will introduce prohibition of driving on the following lengths of road :-

BINNIE ROAD	From the junction with Marsh Street (roundabout) for the entire length.
HALCROW AVENUE	From the junction with Marsh Street (roundabout) for the entire length.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Kent Highway Services, Network Performance Team, 1st Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX by noon on 28 March 2011.

HIGHWAYS – District of Sevenoaks and Borough of Dartford and Gravehsam

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS/DARTFORD/GRAVESHAM AND TONBRIDGE AND MALLING - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, Sevenoaks/Dartford/Gravesham/Tonbridge and Malling as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 7th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; dates in schedule are anticipated dates however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 14 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in the attached schedule.

Schedule 1

Sevenoaks

Road Name: **Lakeview Road, Sevenoaks**
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 10th March 2011 for 4 working days
Diversion: Lambarde Road, Betenson Avenue and Robyns Way

Road Name: **Hopgarden Lane, Sevenoaks**
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 17th March 2011 for 2 working days
Diversion: Ashgrove Road, Oak Lane and Grassy Lane

Road Name: **Gracious Lane, Sevenoaks**
Extent: Between Gracious Bridge and Hubbards Hill
Date: 18th March 2011 for 4 working days
Diversion: Oak Lane, Ashgrove Road and Weald Road

Road Name: **Honeypot Lane, Kemsing**
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 23rd March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: Noah's Ark, St Edith's Road, High Street, Heaverham Road and Watery Lane

Road Name: **Watery Lane, Kemsing**
Extent: Between Heaverham Road and Honeypot Lane
Date: 25th March 2011 for 4 working days
Diversion: Heaverham Road, High Street, St Edith's Road, Noahs Ark and Honeypot Lane

Road Name: **Goodbury Road, West Kingsdown**
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 31st March 2011 for 2 days
Diversion: Birchin Cross Road and Clarkes Green Road

Road Name: **East Hill Road, West Kingsdown**
Extent: Between Goodbury Road and Cherry Tree Grove
Date: 1st April 2011 for 2 days

Road Name: **Beldam Haw, Halstead**
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 4th April 2011 for 2 working days

Road Name: **North Ash Road, New Ash Green**
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 6th April 2011 for 2 working days
Diversion: Ash Road and Redhill Road

Dartford

Road Name: **Hook Green Road, Southfleet**
Extent: Between Whitehill Road and Warren Road
Date: 23rd March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: Dale Road, Station Road, Betsham Road and Highcross Road

Road Name: **Ship Lane, Sutton at Hone**
Extent: Between A225 Main Road and Church Road
Date: 24th March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: A225 Main Road, A20 Main Road/London Road, Button Street and Wood Street Gravesham

Road Name: **Telegraph Hill, Higham**
Extent: Between A226 Gravesend Road and Hermitage Road
Date: 18th March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: Hermitage Road, Forge Lane and A226 Gravesend Road

Road Name: **Cerne Road, Gravesend**
Extent: Between St Francis Avenue and Cambria Crescent
Date: 21st March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: St Francis Avenue and Cambria Crescent

Road Name: **Pickwick Gardens, Northfleet**
Extent: Between Dene Holm Road and Masefield Road
Date: 22nd March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: Masefield Road, Painters Ash Lane and Den Holm Road

Road Name: **Cobhambury Road, Cobham**
Extent: Between The Street and Warren Road
Date: 25th March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: The Street, Sole Street, Gold Street, Henley Street and Luddesdown Road

Road Name: **White Horse Lane, Harvel**
Extent: Between Harvel Road and Dean Lane
Date: 25th March 2011 for 2 working days
Diversion: Harvel Street, Harvel Lane and Harvel Road

Road Name: **Shorne Ifield Road, Shorne**
Extent: Between Mill Hill Lane and Thong Lane
Date: 28th March 2011 for 5 working days
Diversion: Crown Lane, Forge Lane, A226 Gravesend Road, A226 Rochester Road and Thong Lane

Road Name: **White Post Lane, Cobham**
Extent: Between Round Street and Copt Hall Road
Date: 30th March 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: Round Street and Copt Hall Road

Road Name: **Church Lane, Chalk**
Extent: Between A226 Rochester Road and Lower Higham Road
Date: 30th March 2011 for 2 working days
Diversion: Lower Higham Road, Vicarage Lane, Chalk Road and A226 Rochester Road

Road Name: **Jeskyns Road, Cobham**
Extent: Between Sole Street and Round Street
Date: 31st March 2011 for 2 working days
Diversion: Sole Street and Round Street

Tonbridge and Malling

Road Name: **Swanton Road, West Peckham**
Extent: Between B2016 Sevenmile Lane and Stan Lane
Date: 22nd March 2011 for 5 working days
Diversion: Stan Lane, Mereworth Road and The B2016 Sevenmile Lane

Road Name: **Court Road, Burham**
Extent: Between Bell Lane and Church Street
Date: 27th March 2011 and 3rd April
Diversion: Bell Lane, Rochester Road and Church Street

Road Name: **Roydon Hall Road, East Peckham**
Extent: Between A228 Sevenmile Lane and Park Road
Date: 30th March 2011 for 5 working days
Diversion: Park Road, Old Church Lane and A228 Sevenmile Lane

Road Name: **Roughetts Road, Addington**
Extent: Between Church Road and The Street
Date: 3rd March 2011 and 10th April 2011
Diversion: Woodgate Road, Trottiscliffe Road and A20 London Road

Road Name: **Pilgrims Way, Wrotham**
Extent: Between A20 London Road and Nepicar Lane
Date: 8th April 2011 for 3 working days
Diversion: A20 London Road and Nepicar Lane

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate carriageway pre-patching works to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services.

HIGHWAYS – District of Sevenoaks

(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTIONS OF WAITING AND LOADING & UNLOADING AND ON STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 21) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 36, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of road in the towns and parishes within the District of Sevenoaks:-

Homedean Road - Chevening	Alban Crescent - Farningham
Berwick Way - Sevenoaks	Crampton's Road - Sevenoaks
Oak Lane - Sevenoaks	Main Road (B258) - Hextable
Emersons Avenue - Hextable	Victoria Hill Road - Hextable
Northview - Swanley	Sycamore Drive - Swanley
Tower Croft - Eynsford	High Street (A225) - Eynsford
Priory Lane - Eynsford	

The effect of the Order will also be to introduce day time restriction (single yellow lines) 8.30am - 6.30pm Monday to Friday on the north eastern, south eastern side and around the turning head of Tower Croft and 8.30am - 9.30pm, 3.00pm – 4.00pm Monday to Friday on lengths of High Street (A225) Eynsford (in the vicinity of Anthony Roper School).

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sevenoaks Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks and Sessions House County Hall, Maidstone, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing for the attention of Nicolette Davis, Network Performance Team, 1st Floor Invicta House, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or by email to td.sevenoaks.tunbridgewells@kent.gov.uk by noon on 28 March 2011.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Buy blue to go green

First **Drive**

by **STEVE LOADER**

Hyundai **i10 Blue**

HYUNDAI delivered a wake-up call to British motorists in 2008 when it launched its i10 baby car.

It was a five-door mini-marvel with the usual Hyundai bargain price and five-year warranty.

Sales had a further lift from the Government-backed Scrappage grant scheme – trade in your banger and we'll give you two grand towards a new one. It made the i10 an unmissable bargain then, but the car maintained its sales momentum for the Korean marque even after the end of the Scrappage offers.

Early power options were nothing to get excited about though and didn't do much to dispel the Noddy car image.

But things have improved and the Korean marque has now stolen a lead during a major revision of the i10 range by offering a version with CO2 emissions low enough to limbo beneath the 100 g/km bar for road tax.

So you'll pay nothing to keep this motor on the road and it can average nearly 70mpg.

So it's very green, except it's called the i10 Blue.

I blame the Germans; it's all to do with the likes of Mercedes-Benz and VW not wishing to do the powerful German Green Party any favours, so they call their green models BlueEfficiency and BlueMotion.

It seems Hyundai is adopting the same colour coding.

Whether you buy the Blue or one of the other models in this enhanced i10 range though, you'll get a surprisingly impressive driving experience.

It certainly doesn't ride and handle like a Noddy car and there's a lot of room, largely because the i10 has the longest wheelbase in its class.

Standard kit is generous too for a range starting at a modest £8,195 and including air conditioning, an iPod/USB link, six-speaker stereo, electric windows and central locking.

The start price buys you the Classic entry model but trading up costs just £600, first to Active trim, and then a further £550 for the flagship Style.

You pay a little extra upfront for the long term fuel/tax and eco savings from running the standalone Blue model though.

It costs £9,195 but that does take account of a specification including the stop and go technology that switches off the engine at the lights or in a jam to save fuel and emissions.

It also brings the low rolling resistance tyres that are part of the car's green credentials.

Power comes from a little three-cylinder 68bhp 1.0-litre engine that is refined for this class, even when cruising the motorway. A possible downside for some buyers though is a sedate acceleration – 0-62 second in 14.8 seconds – so I would be inclined more to the other engine option, a smoother four-cylinder 85bhp 1.25-litre engine that delivers 62mph in 12.2 seconds and will still average more than 60mpg. There is also an auto option with this, though there are the predictable performance and consumption penalties.

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Borrowing Rate	3.99%
Representative	8.99%APR

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10 10 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr
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10 10 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 5dr
Star Silver, 5,010 miles
Demo Price **£9995**
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Against Cost New of £18965

50 DEMONSTRATORS to choose from

CORSA SELECTION		ONLY
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White	£9495
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Metro Blue	£9995
10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Flame Red	£9995
10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Black Sapphire	£10350
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Flame Red	£9495
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Star Silver	£10995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Black Sapphire	£10995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Metro Blue	£9995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Metro Blue, delivery miles	£9795
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White, delivery miles	£9495
10 10	CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 3DR Silver Lightning, 12,830 miles	£7995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Silver Lightning, 2,045 miles	£8995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Metro Blue, 2,925 miles	£9995
10 10	CORSA SE 1.4 5DR Beech Green, 4,740	£10995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Star Silver, delivery miles	£9495
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Metro Blue, delivery miles	£9495
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White, 3,225 miles	£8995
10 60	CORSA VXR 1.6 3DR Black Sapphire, delivery miles	£14995
10 10	CORSA EXCLUSIV AUTO 1.4 5DR Technical Grey, 1,750 miles	£11495
ASTRA SELECTION		ONLY
10 60	ASTRA SPORTS TOURER SRI TURBO 1.4 5DR Technical Grey, delivery miles	£18995
10 10	NEW ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6 5DR Technical Grey, 14,450 miles	£11995
10 10	ASTRA SPORTS HATCH 1.4 5DR Glacier White, 2,065 miles	£10995
10 60	ASTRA SRI 1.4 3DR Sovereign Silver	£11495
10 60	ASTRA SRI 1.4 3DR Black Sapphire	£11495
10 60	ASTRA SPORTS HATCH SRI 1.6 3DR White	£11995
10 10	NEW ASTRA SRI TBO 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire, 5,000 miles	£13995
AGILA SELECTION		ONLY
10 60	AGILA DESIGN 1.2 5DR Lemon Grass	£9995
10 60	AGILA CLUB 1.2 5DR Meteorite Grey	£8995
10 60	AGILA DESIGN 1.2 5DR Moroccan Blue	£9995
ZAFIRA SELECTION		ONLY
10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Sovereign Silver, 1,570 miles	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire, 4,325 miles	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA LIFE 1.6 A/C 5DR Ultra Blue, 4,690 miles	£11995
10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY CDTI 1.7D 5DR Star Silver, 2,390 miles	£14995
10 60	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.7D 5DR Sovereign Silver	£15995
10 60	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Silver Lightning	£13995
MERIVA SELECTION		ONLY
10 60	NEW MERIVA EXCLUSIV TBO 1.4 5DR Star Silver	£14995
10 60	MERIVA EXCLUSIV CDTI 1.7D 5DR Waterworld	£16995
INSIGNIA SELECTION		ONLY
10 10	INSIGNIA SRI 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire, 1,255 miles	£14495
10 60	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 130PS 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£16495
10 60	INSIGNIA SPORTS TOURER EXCLUSIV 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£19495
COMMERCIAL VEHICLES SELECTION		ONLY
10 60	VIVARO SWB 2.0 5DR White	£12995+VAT
10 60	CORSAVAN SPORTIVE 1.3 3DR Star Silver, delivery miles	£9995+VAT
10 60	CORSAVAN 1.3 3DR White, delivery miles	£8495+VAT
10 10	COMBO CDTI 1.3 5DR White, 17,005 miles	£7495+VAT
10 10	COMBO VAN 1.2 5DR Glacier White, delivery miles	£8495+VAT
10 60	COMBO VAN 1.3 5DR Star Silver, delivery miles	£9495+VAT
10 60	COMBO VAN 1.3 4DR Star Silver, delivery miles	£9995+VAT
10 60	COMBO CDTI 1.3 5DR White, delivery miles	£9495+VAT
10 60	VIVARO DOUBLE CAB SPORTIVE LWB 2.0 5DR Star Silver, 1,235 miles	£15995+VAT
10 10	VIVARO LWB 2.0 5DR Glacier White, 7,350 miles	£11495+VAT

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Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Finance subject to status. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first car owner, 100,000 mile limit, annual check required. The warranty excludes wear & tear and serviceable items and the vehicle must be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule to continue the lifetime warranty. Terms and conditions apply. Offer available to all Vauxhall passenger cars (this offer does not apply to car derived vans) from 1st August 2010. For more information contact your local Vauxhall Retailer or visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty

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08 08 Seat Leon 1.9 TDi Reference
5 dr, Hatchback, Silver, 1896cc, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed Manual, Mileage 48,000

£6,695 +vat

07 57 Volkswagen Transporter 1.9 TDi T28 SWB 102 BHP
1 Owner, 97,000 miles, FSH, ABS, RCL, Immob, Side Loading door, CD, Ply Lined, White

£7,995

07 57 Seat Alhambra 2.0 TDI
Estate , Blue ,Turbo Diesel 1984cc , 6-Speed Manual, 92000 Miles

£3,695

05 54 Renault Clio 1.2 Extreme 3 16v
3dr, Hatchback, Black, Petrol, 1149cc, 5 Speed Manual, 54,000 miles

£14,995

05 05 Mitsubishi Evo 2.0 FQ-340 IX4 GSR 380 BHP
35,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, Body Kit, EM, CD, Leather, Alloys, Flame Red

ESTATES, MPV'S & 4x4'S

07 07 VOLVO V702.4D 5DR Est Auto, 77,000 miles, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, e/s/roof, e/d,seat, CD, rain sensor, leather, alloys, in silver £11,695

08 08 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTiElite Est, 6sp, 1 owner, 75,000 miles, a/c, ABS, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, fogs, leather, alloys, in red £7,995

08 58 FORD FOCUS 1.8 TD STYLE 5DR EST, 1 owner, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in Met Black £7,495

08 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE AUTO EST, 1 owner, 74,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, in Sea Grey £6,695

08 08 FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI STYLE EST, 1 owner, 6,4000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Met Grey £6,695

07 57 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDI EST, 1 owner, 88,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, cruise, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, alloys, in Met Red £5,995

05 55 FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI GHIA EST, 6sp, 2 owners, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, e/w, CD, alloys, in silver £4,695

07 07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CTDI CLUB EST, 1 Owner, FSH, AC, Cruise, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EM, CD, Met Silver £4,495

SALOONS, SPORTS & PRESTIGE

06 06 SAAB 9-3 2.0 VECTOR SEMI-AUTO 175 BHP 2dr CONVERTIBLE, 1 Owner, 55k, FDSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, Cruise, R/C/Locking, Immob, E/W, CD, E/Hood, Leather, Alloys in Parchment Silver £7,295

05 05 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 BERTONE TURBO CONVERTIBLE, 28,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS,PAS, Cruise, RCL, Immob, EW, Htd Seats, Alloys, Peacock Blue £6,995

04 04 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX TURBO, AWD, 4dr, 71,000 miles, FDSH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, ABS, PAS, e/w, CD, fogs, alloys, in met blue £6,695

02 52 MERCEDES C230K 1.8 COUPE 2 dr, 94k, fsh, a/c, cruise, PAS, r/c/locking,immob, panoramic s/roof, e/w, CD, htd seats, leather, alloys, in silver £6.495

06 06 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI GHIA 4dr, 6sp, 2 owners, 97k, FSH, a/c, e/w, ABS, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, CD, alloys, in met blue £4,695

02 52 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 COUPE CONVERTIBLE, 59,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, ER, EW, CD, Leather, Alloys, Met Blue £4,295

HATCHBACKS

06 56 VAUXHALL VECTRA1.9 CDTi Elite5DR, 6sp, 1 owner, 94,000 FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, htd seats, auto lights, leather, in grey £5,495

03 52 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 XSI 3dr, 63,000 miles, FSH, a/c, ABS. PAS, e/w, auto lights, 1/2 leather, alloys, in silver £5,495

07 56 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Edge 115BHP, 1 owner, 83k, FSH, ABS, PAS, A/C, RCL, E/W, CD, Alloy, in Met Green £4,695

07 57 FORD KA 1.3 STYLE 3dr, 1 owner, 37,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, CL, Immob, EW, Radio/CD, Drivers Airbag, Cloth Trim, White £3,995

04 54 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME 3 3dr, 54,000, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking,immob, e/w, s/roof, in black £3,695

04 54 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LIFE 5dr , 96,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CBC, RCL, Immob, EW, EM, CD, Met Silver £3,495

04 54 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V EXTREME 3 3dr, 1 owner, 51,000 mls, FDSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, sunroof, CD, e/w, in silver £3,495

04 53 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DTI LS 5dr, 76,000 miles, SH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, in Met Blue £3,295

COMMERCIALS

06 56 TOYOTA HI LUX 2.5 D-4D HL3 DC, 5 Seater, 1 Owner, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, EM, CD, Side Steps, Alloys, in Met Blue ..... £9,995 +vat

08 57 MERCEDES SPRINTER 311 2.2 CDI LWB Box Van, 1 owner, 138,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, tail lift, in white ..... £9,995 +vat

07 07 FORD TRANSIT2.4 100 TDC T350 LWBD/CAB, Tipper, 1 owner, 78,000 miles, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, in white ..... £8,495 +vat

07 57 MERCEDES SPRINTER 311 2.2 CDI HIGH ROOF & LWB, 1 owner, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, side loading door, in silver ..... £6,995 +vat

05 05 FORD RANGER 2.5 TDI XLT THUNDER, 78,000 miles, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, e/mirrors, CD, chrome rear stop bar & side step, alloys, in Black ..... £6,495 +vat

07 57 MERCEDES VITO 109 2.2 CDI XTRA LONG VAN, 6sp, 1 owner, 111,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, ply lined, in white ..... £6,495 +vat

07 57 MERCEDES VITO 2.2 CDI 109 LWB, 3 seater, 6sp, 1 Owner, 117,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Twin side loading drs, White ..... £5,995 +vat

07 57 FORD TRANSIT 85 2.2D T280 SWB, 3 seater, 1 Owner, 104,000 miles, ABS, PAS, ESP, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Side loading door, White ..... £5,495 +vat

07 07 FORD TRANSIT 100 2.4D T350 LWB, Semi High Roof, 3 seater, 1 owner, 117,000 miles, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply lined, CD, Side loading dr, White ..... £5,495 +vat

07 57 FORD TRANSIT 85 2.2 TDCI T280 SWB, Semi High Roof, 3 seater, 1 owner, 103,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, Immobiliser in White ..... £5,495 +vat

03 03 FORD TRANSIT 2.4 TD 350 S/CAB, MWB Tipper, 2 owners, 100,000 miles, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, cloth trim, in white ..... £4,995 +vat

08 08 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI 2000 CREW VAN, 5 Seater, 1 Owner, 61k, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/Locking, Immob, 2x Side Loading Doors, 1/2 ply lined, In White ..... £4,995 +vat

07 07 PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.9D 815 70, 3 SEATER, 1 owner, 60,000 miles, FS, C/Locking, Immob, CD, Ply Lined in White ..... £4,995 +vat

08 08 VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN 1.3 CDTiClub, 6sp, 1 owner, 73,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, in white ..... £4,695 +vat

08 08 VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN 1.3 CDTI CLUB, 6 sp, 1 Owner, 73k, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/Locking, Immob, E/W, CD, In White ..... £4,695 +vat

07 07 VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN 1.7 CDTI SPORTIVE, 6sp, 110,000 miles, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, E/W, Immobiliser, Alloys, CD in White ..... £4,495 +vat

07 57 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi 17000 Van, 1 owner, 68,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, ply lined, side loading door, in white ..... £3,995 +vat

07 57 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI 1700 VAN, 1 owner, 76,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, ply lined, CD, in white ..... £3,995 +vat

07 07 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI 2000 CREW VAN, 1 owner, 91,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, 3 seat in rear, 1/2 ply lined, in white ..... £3,995 +vat

£4,995 +vat

Volkswagen Caddy 2.0 C20 SDi Van
Air Bag, ABS, Power Steering, Remote Central Locking, Immobiliser, CD, Cloth Upholstery, Rear Wash/wipe, Height Adjustable Seat, Side Load Door, Twin Doorway

£2,995

01 51 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 SE Auto est
Automatic, 83000 miles, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Alloys, Twin Air Bags

£6,995

07 57 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr
1 Owner, 47,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, Computer, CD, Met Blue

£5,995

05 55 Volkswagen Golf 1.4 S 5dr
Hatchback, Blue, Petrol 1390cc, 5-Speed, Manual, 58000 miles

£6,495

02 52 Mercedes-Benz C Class C230 Kompressor SE Coupe
Aluminium Silver, Petrol 1796cc, Automatic 94000 miles

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

VW aims to be the pick of pick-up set

VOLKSWAGEN'S new Amarok pick-up is due on sale in the spring.

It will arguably be become the first pick-up truck with some badge cachet – more for the builder 'who done good' and surveyor set rather than the builder's bum brigade.

The German marque expects the Amarok's appeal to be boosted by the largest load dimensions in its class and technology and safety systems not usually associated with the sector such as electronic differential lock, anti-slip regulation, ESP with hill hold assist, hill descent control, and off-road ABS.

A special Berghaus version has been created in collaboration with the outdoor clothing specialist.

The California Berghaus limited edition model will be available with a 2.0-litre BiTDI 180PS engine and boast standard equipment including a bike rack, awning, Berghaus-branded carpet mats and waterproof seat covers, and exclusive 18-inch two-colour 'Dakar' alloy wheels.

Alfa's new diesel engine for Giulietta

ALFA Romeo's Giulietta five-door hatchback range has been boosted by the addition of a new second generation MultiJet diesel engine. The firm's new 2.0 JTDM-2 140bhp unit boasts low fuel consumption and running costs.

The new Alfa Romeo Giulietta features reduced CO2 emissions and reduced fuel consumption (119 g/km and 62.8 mpg respectively in the combined cycle). In real terms, with a 13 per cent benefit in kind rate, 40 per cent tax bracket company car drivers will pay as little as £90 a month in company car tax for the Lusso trim version.

This particular Giulietta also boasts a long servicing interval – 21,000 miles – thus minimising work required on the vehicle during its life cycle and cutting its running costs.

Gordini Wind Roadster blows into town

FOLLOWING the launch of the Twingo and Clio Gordini models, Renault's Wind Roadster is the next to receive special attention.

The coupe-roadster bears the Gordini colours and comes with 17-inch black diamond alloy wheels. It features Malta blue bodywork with trademark twin white stripes, Glacier white door mirrors, grille trim and rear wing, and a gloss black roof.

The cabin features special 'Gordini' black and blue leather upholstery, blue and white door straps and a blue leather steering wheel with the signature white stripes on the centreband.

A leather gear lever gaiter and polished metal gearknob bearing the Gordini name complete the look.

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Vehicle shown is an Orlando 2.0 VCDi LTZ with metallic paint at an extra cost of £410, and an Executive Pack at an optional cost of £2,000. Available at participating Dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.
Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Orlando range: Urban - 29.1 (9.7) – 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 47.9 (5.9) – 57.7 (4.9), Combined - 38.7 (7.3) – 47.1 (6.0). CO_2 emissions 186 - 159g/km.

DrivingReview

by

RICHARD M HAMMOND

Ford **Mondeo**

Mondeo getting better with age

NEW ERA: Ford is hoping its latest Mondeo will lead to a return of premium saloon drivers

MONDEO man may not have proved as pivotal in last year's General Election as he was back in 1997, but at least he can take solace in the fact that in the 13 years since, he has become better looking, more reliable and more powerful.

He may or may not be so pleased to hear that he's also become more exclusive. In the decade and a bit since New Labour entered power on a ground-swell of support from the Ford Mondeo driving everyman, the rep-segment staple has been overtaken as the vehicle of choice for motorway journey-men by the premium BMW 3 Series model, with drivers buoyed by a booming economy and an arguably more even distribution of wealth.

A couple of years on from the hardest-hitting recession of a generation all of that seems a long time ago – and now the Ford Mondeo is gunning to bring some of those premium saloon drivers back into its fold as the age of austerity hits home.

There are one or two problems, however. Firstly, the Mondeo had become rather expensive as a result of a drop in the value of sterling. Secondly, those drivers who have been enjoying the high regard, powerful performance and premium feel that a German marque affords have become somewhat accustomed to the trappings.

The responses have come two-fold. Ford has recently restructured its price plans across the existing line-up of models, offering far greater value across its range, including the Mondeo.

And now the Mondeo has been revised with the aim of offering more power, more refinement and a more premium feel.

Read any review of the previous generation Ford Mondeo and it will tell you that it offers a class-leading package. Handsome good looks, a spacious interior, a contemporary cockpit and the crisp handling that's become expected of Ford models were all present.

It's probably for the best, then, that Ford has concentrated its efforts resulting in a revised model that is at once comfortingly familiar and intriguingly different.

It's worth noting early on that the traditional four-door saloon model is no more in the UK due to lack of demand.

From the outside, the changes are subtle but apparent up close. The shared front ends are more in keeping with the hugely popular Focus and S-Max models. The upper portion of the grille is sleeker, while the lower, trapezoidal portion has been made larger.

LED running lamps are integrated into the fog-lamp units and, along the sides, more chrome around the windows of the upper trim level models highlights the sleek window line and gives a greater impression of quality.

The same affect is mostly achieved inside, with revisions to details such as the door-panel design giving a more upmarket and design-conscious feel. The centre console boasts a simple and attractive layout while the instrument binnacle is very impressive, with a clear colour display conveying information in an effortlessly absorbed manner.

The menu-based interface takes a little practice to master but is a success, and even the models equipped with the new lane departure warning and speed limiter options use a minimum of buttons.

Material quality is good, with soft touch plastics to the upper portion of the dash. Only the satin-finish surround for the centre console is likely to divide opinion.

The changes go beyond cosmetics. Two new engine options include a 197bhp version of the 2.2-litre 'DuraTorq' diesel and a 237bhp, 2.0-litre 'EcoBoost' petrol. The latter is available with Ford's six-speed, twin-clutch PowerShift automatic transmission.

It's a slick combination and one that makes the most of the Mondeo's cosseting ride and responsive chassis, with seamless drive and an impressive turn of speed. Importantly, it's as smooth in town at low speed as when cruising, requiring no special treatment from the driver's seat.

Interior space remains one of the Mondeo's trump cards. It feels hugely accommodating from the passenger seats, and the boot is generous in five-door form. For the driver, the impression of size remains present on the road – making it a tight vehicle to position against an oncoming tractor – but it's a small price to pay for such accommodation.

Mondeo man can continue to feel on top of his game for a few more years yet.

DrivingFacts

FORD MONDEO 2.0 ECOBOOST POWERSHIFT TITANIUM, FROM £17,295.

Engine: 2.0-litre petrol unit developing 237bhp and 250lb/ft.

Transmission: Six-speed automatic transmission, driving the front wheels.

Performance: Maximum speed 153mph, 0-62mph 7.5 seconds.

Economy: 36.6mpg.

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2009(59) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1100 miles, £6,495
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2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £6,995
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles, £6,995

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2009(09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles, £7,495
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CITROEN

2007(57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles, £5,995

CORSA

2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles, £10,995
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2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles, £7,995
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MAZDA

2008(58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles, £9,995
2008(08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles, £7,995
2006(56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles, £6,495
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SUZUKI

2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles, £9,495
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,495

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2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 9000 miles, £7,995
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2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles, £6,995
2007(07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles, £6,995
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2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR TD HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles, £19,995
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2010(59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles, £19,495
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £17,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles, £17,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles, £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, ORANGE, 7000 miles, £15,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles, £14,995
2007(57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles, £12,995
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 1000 miles, £12,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 500 miles, £11,995
2010(10) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 6000 miles, £9,995
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles, £9,995
2009(59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles, £9,995
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles, £8,495
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, £8,495
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles, £7,995
2010(60) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles, £7,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles, £6,995
2010(59) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 11000 miles, £6,495
2006(56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles, £5,995
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles, £4,995
2002(02) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 10000 miles, £2,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles, £15,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles, £14,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, £11,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £9,495
2010(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, £9,495
2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles, £8,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles, £8,995
2009(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 30000 miles, £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles, £7,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 14000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles, £5,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles, £5,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles, £5,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £7,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, £6,995
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 16000 miles, £6,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles, £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 7000 miles, £12,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles, £10,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN DIRECT MPV AUTO, BLUE, 850 miles, £10,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, £8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles, £7,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 11000 miles, £7,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, £6,995
2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles, £5,995
2004(54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 78000 miles, £3,995

PEUGEOT

2010(60) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ABYSS BLUE, 750 miles, £10,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £9,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles, £9,495
2008(08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles, £6,995

MITSUBISHI

2007(57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles, £6,995

HONDA

2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles, £17,995
2006(06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles, £11,995
2009(09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles, £10,995
2008(58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles, £10,495
2007(07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles, £8,995
2004(54) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles, £6,495
2003(03) HONDA CIVIC SE EXECUTIVE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 49000 miles, £4,995

MERCEDES

2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles, £23,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles, £13,995
2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £13,995
2010(60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles, £13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles, £12,995
2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE LWB 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles, £10,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles, £9,995
2007(56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles, £8,995
2002(02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK SLK230 KOMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles, £7,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2008(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles, £11,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN JETTA S TDI TD SALOON AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles, £9,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles, £9,995
2006(06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £9,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £9,995
2008(58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles, £7,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles, £7,495

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR TD HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles, £19,995
2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, £16,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £16,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £16,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles, £12,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 7000 miles, £12,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2006(06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles, £7,995
2006(56) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS LUNA TDI 5DR TD HATCH, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles, £5,995
2005(55) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 33000 miles, £5,995
2006(06) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH, MAUVE, 35000 miles, £5,495
2008(08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 35000 miles, £5,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles, £5,495
2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles, £5,495
2007(07) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles, £4,995
2007(07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles, £4,995
2003(03) PEUGEOT 206 CC SILVER COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles, £4,695
2005(05) NISSAN MICRA S 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 21000 miles, £3,995
2005(55) CITROEN C2 DESIGN 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 24000 miles, £3,995
2005(55) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles, £3,995
2004(04) PEUGEOT 206 SE 5DR HATCH, MOONSTONE SILVER, 36000 miles, £3,995
2003(53) FORD FOCUS GHIA 5DR HATCH, TONIC BLUE, 44000 miles, £3,995

SKODA

2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, £8,995

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10 60 SEAT Exeo ST 2.0 TDi SE Tech 5-door Estate in Black Magic. 3,500 miles. Was: £23,160 **Now: £18,995** Save £4,165!

10 10 SEAT Exeo ST 2.0 TDi SE CRDi 5-door Estate in Silver. 4,500 miles. Was: £22,265 **Now: £16,995** Save £5,270!

10 60 SEAT Leon 1.6 TDi CR Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 1,500 miles. Was: £18,020 **Now: £14,895** Save £3,125!

10 10 SEAT Altea 1.6 SE TDi CR Ecomotive 5-door MPV in Planeta Blue. 9,500 miles. Was: £18,980 **Now: £13,695** Save £5,285!

10 60 SEAT Altea 1.9 TDi S 5-door Hatchback in Track Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £16,190 **Now: £12,995** Save £3,195!

10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 90 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 2,500 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £12,795** Save £2,795!

10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 5-door Hatchback in Nayara Blue. 4,500 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £12,295** Save £3,295!

10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.6 TDi CR Sport 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,500 miles. Was: £15,000 **Now: £11,995** Save £3,005!

10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S 90PS 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,000 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £11,795** Save £3,795!

10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic. 2,000 miles. Was: £13,495 **Now: £10,995** Save £2,500!

10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £13,495 **Now: £10,995** Save £2,500!

10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 3,500 miles. Was: £13,095 **Now: £10,695** Save £2,400!

07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 FR TSi 200PS 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic Metallic. 34,500 miles. Was: £10,995 **Now: £10,495** Save £500!

10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 2,000 miles. Was: £12,650 **Now: £10,395** Save £2,255!

07 57 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey Metallic. 29,000 miles. Was: £9,995 **Now: £9,495** Save £500!

10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 4,000 miles. Was: £12,570 **Now: £9,295** Save £3,275!

08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 10,000 miles. Was: £9,795 **Now: £9,295** Save £500!

08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Crono Yellow. 21,000 miles. Was: £9,495 **Now: £9,195** Save £300!

07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic Metallic. 37,500 miles. Was: £9,295 **Now: £8,995** Save £300!

08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16V SE 85PS 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 17,500 miles. £8,295

07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi PD Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey Metallic 54,561 miles. £7,995

08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-door Hatchback in Black. 19,000 miles. £7,995

08 08 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey, 17,000 miles. £6,895

07 56 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Stylance 3-door Hatchback in Luna Grey, Automatic 17,000 miles. £5,795

Other makes

05 05 BMW Z4 3.0i SE 2-door Roadster/Convertible Tiptronic in Maldives Blue. 13,500 miles. £16,750

07 07 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CTDi Exclusive 5-door Hatchback Automatic/Tiptronic in Silver. 31,000 miles. Was: £8,295 **Now: £7,795** Save £500!

08 57 Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSi Classic 5-door Hatchback in Gold Metallic. 23,600 miles. Was: £7,995 **Now: £7,295** Save £700!

07 07 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Mercury Metallic. 24,500 miles. Was: £7,295 **Now: £6,995** Save £300! SOLD

07 07 Skoda Roomster 2 1.4 5-door Hatchback in Deep Sea Blue. 23,000 miles. Was: £7,695 **Now: £6,995** Save £700!

08 08 Renault Twingo 1.2 GT 3-door Hatchback in Black. 12,000 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,395** Save £600!

07 07 Renault Modus 1.4 16V Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Antique Green. 10,800 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,295** Save £700!

07 07 Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Design 5-door MPV in Star Silver. 9,800 miles Was: £6,495 **Now: £5,995** Save £500!

07 57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Tonic Blue. 17,500 miles. £5,995

08 57 Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-door Hatchback in Ocean Blue. 26,500 miles. £5,495

05 05 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Club 5-door Hatchback in Star Silver Metallic. 34,500 miles. £4,995

07 07 Proton Gen-2 1.6 GL5 5-door Hatchback in Passion Blue. 28,000 miles. Was: £4,695 **Now: £4,295** Save £400!

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DrivingReview by STEVELOADER

Nissan Juke

Juke's no box

NISSAN has been transformed in just a few years from being viewed as boring to being one of the funkiest brands around.

What's more, with its huge Sunderland plant churning out cars for the home market and Europe, it is also seen increasingly as a British brand; no small thing at a time when Brits are tempted to put their money where the local jobs are while also making the best of sterling's low buying power.

Last year, the brand launched another winner out of its plant in the North East – the curiously named Juke.

It can mean a lively roadside bar in the USA or a crafty manoeuvre in sport; either would fit the distinctive Nissan, though it eludes another obvious association – jukebox.

The Juke isn't in any way a box, even if a distinctive front lighting array allows the car to be lit up like an old-fashioned Wurlitzer jukebox and it represents a funky selection, if you want a different style of supermini.

Nissan designed it to shake up that small car sector like its big brother, the Qashqai, which has already rattled the family hatchback market and created a new market segment – crossover.

Its baby brother ain't pretty, but superminis are the shopping trolleys of the motoring world – and can all look alike when parked in rows down at the local Tesco. The Juke can stand apart though, with its British-built bulldog looks.

And if the lines are aggressive, so is the pricing from £12,995, which buys you a small car that can also trade punches with mainstream family hatchbacks – a size up from superminis.

The Juke is a fun car to drive too; it sits higher than average but handles tautly even if a relatively heavy body tends to lean on the bends.

And is offered with some good engines, though it's a tough call on whether to go for petrol or diesel. The latter is a 108bhp version of the familiar 1.5-litre unit from Nissan's parent, Renault, which is well-regarded from appearances in various car models, but adds around £1,300 to the price of an equivalent Juke with the cheapest engine option, a 115bhp 1.6-litre petrol.

There is also a performance choice (from £16,045): a 187bhp petrol engine as driven here that plays to the Juke's handling strengths and is also smooth and enjoyable to live with.

You can have 4x4 version too, but this comes at £20,345 in flagship Tekna trim and with an

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Fuel consumption in MPG(l/100km) for Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2 5dr: Urban 44.8 (6.3), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

auto 'box only. I've not driven it, but at that price and with the Juke unlikely to yomp across a ploughed field despite off-roader styling cues, I'd say that's an expensive posemobile.

Stick with the idea that you are buying a versatile five-door hatchback that is well-priced and distinctively styled though, and the Juke makes a strong case.

Nissan has also ensured the eye-catching exterior is not let down by a dull cabin. You sit quite high up though the rising shoulder-line impinges on the view out for smaller passengers in the back, while taller ones there may find their headroom affected by the pseudo coupe styling. For the same reason, the boot is also rather small for what seems a relatively big car.

But these are trade-offs that many buyers will surely give up to get something so distinct from the run-of-the-mill hatchback and it's hard to even think what it's obvious rival would be since it almost sits in a category of one – sports crossover perhaps – which is why I went for the Alfa MiTo (see facts panel), simply because it's another fun car that says much about the person who drives it.

DrivingPortfolio

NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA DIG-T (SPORT PACK) £16,045

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£155/year
Best rival	Alfa Romeo MiTo

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the rear passenger's experience – high windows and a lack of headroom

NOT SURE: everyone will like the Juke's in yer face looks

REALLY LIKE: the aggressive pricing to go with the bulldog demeanor – it's a great fun car for the money

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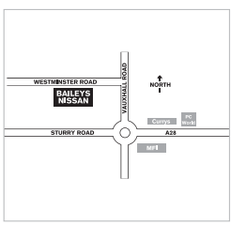

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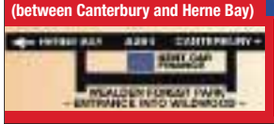

2005/05 PLATE PEUGEOT 206 1.1 ZEST 3 DOOR

in stardust metallic silver with contrasting dark grey cloth interior-electric windows-front fog lights-drivers seat height adjustment-c/d in-car entertainment system-alloy wheels-multiple airbag protection system-remote control central locking-power steering-this car is in great condition and being a low insurance group would make a good first car or family round about. **£3,495**

2005/55 PLATE VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1.8 AUTO 5 DOOR

in metallic midnight black with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-remote control central locking-rear parking sensors-alloy wheels-drivers seat height adjustment-electric adjustable door mirrors-multifunction steering wheel-c/d in-car entertainment system-multiple airbag protection system-this would make a great family car and being automatic is a rare find. **£4,495**

2004/54 PLATE VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE Tdi DIESEL 3 DOOR

in stardust metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-heated front seats-front fog lights-electric windows-electric adjustable door mirrors-rear parking sensors-c/d in-car entertainment system-multiple airbag protection system-front height adjustable seats-front armrest-this is car offers great fuel economy and a real pleasure to drive. **£5,995**

2005/05 PLATE PEUGEOT 307 XSI 2.0 HDI DIESEL 3 DOOR

in metallic stardust silver with contrasting black half leather interior-air conditioning-alloy wheels-electric windows-c/d in-car entertainment system-remote control central lockingelectric adjustable door mirrors-drivers seat height adjustmentmultiple airbag protection system-this car is offered with a full service history,is in great condition and has good fuel economy. **£4,995**

2005/05 PLATE PEUGEOT 407 DIESEL 2.0 Hdi S 4 DOOR

in ice blue metallic with contrasting dark grey interior, 6 speed gearbox, electric windows, air conditioning, remote central locking, CD in car entertainment system, front fog lights, multi air bag protection system, electric adjustable door mirrors, drivers seat height adjustment, this car offers great fuel economy and good value for money **£4,495**

2002/02 PLATE VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 SE AUTO 4 DOOR

in metallic charcoal grey with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-remote control central locking-alloy wheels-c/d in-car entertainment system-electric adjustable door mirrors-drivers seat height adjustment-multiple airbag protection system-this car offers great value for money and has a full service history. **£3,495**

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in magenta red metallic with contrasting sand leather/suede interior, air conditioning/climate control, factory fit satellite navigation, full panoramic glass sunroof, remote control stereo and CD multi changer, electric/memory seats, abs, all round air bag protection, rear picnic tables and headrests, rear park distance control, new card start ignition system with remote control central locking/alarm and immobiliser, automatic screen wipers, automatic light control, front centre armrests, abs, automatic traction control, electric retractable wing mirrors, electric windows, rear blinds, an absolutely stunning 7 seater with lots and lots of extras, the highest spec you can get with more than enough space, full service history, be quick this is priced to sell at only **£5,995**

2007/07 PLATE KIA PICANTO 1.1 LS 5 DOOR

in midnight black with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-central locking-power steering-c/d in-car entertainment system-drivers seat height adjustment-multiple airbag protection system-this car is one owner from new with a full main dealer service history,offers great fuel economy and good value for money at only **£3,995**

2007/56 PLATE NEW VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 ACTIVE 7 SEATER

in midnight black metallic with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-alloy wheels-remote control central locking-7 seats-c/d in-car entertainment system-drivers seat height adjustment-electric adjustable door mirrors-multifunction steering wheel-multiple airbag protection system-this car is the latest shape,one owner from new with a full service history and offers great value for money at only. **£5,995**

2003/03 PLATE CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 SX 5 DOOR

in stardust silver with contrasting dark blue cloth interior-air conditioning-power steering-remote control central locking-electric windows-multifunction steering wheel-electric adjustable door mirrors-front fog lights-c/d in-car entertainment system-drivers seat height adjustment-multiple airbag protection system-rear passenger tables-underfloor storage compartments-front armrests this family car offers great value for money and lots of space. **£3,495**

ARRIVING SHORTLY

2004/04 PLATE FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA 5 DOOR

in metallic moondust blue with contrasting dark grey cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-alloy wheels-electric adjustable door mirrors-c/d in-car entertainment system-multiple airbag protection system-drivers seat height adjustment-remote control central locking-multifunction steering wheel-front armrest-front fog lights-this car is offered with a full service history 44,000 miles from new and is great value for money at only **£3995**

ARRIVING SHORTLY

2007/07 PLATE FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR

in ocean blue metallic with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-alloy wheels-remote control central locking-electric windows-front fog lights-drivers seat height adjustment-c/d in-car entertainment system-multiple airbag protection system-electric adjustable door mirrors-this car is one owner from new with a full service history and offers great value for money at only. **£6,495**

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T REG CITROEN XANTIA 2.0 AUTO ESTATE, met blue, full black leather interior, air con, electric windows, pas, in car entertainment, mot & taxed £995
2000 (X) V W GOLF 1.6 SE, 5 door in racing green metallic, air conditioning, electric windows, remote control central locking, heated front seats, in car entertainment system, taxed & mot £1,995
W REG HONDA ACCORD 2.0 V TEC SE 5 DOOR green metallic, a/c, e/sunroof, e/windows, stereo, CD, pas, long mot & taxed £995
1997 (P) MAZDA 323 1.5 LXI 5 DOOR in metallic red, alloy wheels, power steering, electric windows, this car has a mot and is taxed, clean and a very good runner and all for £895
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03 03 FORD FOCUS 1.6 EBONY, Black, air con, alloy wheels, leather seats, FSH....£3,795
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03 53 FORD MONDEO 1.8 MISTRAL, Air con, elec windows and mirrors £2,995
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06 56 KIA CARENS GS TURBO DIESEL AUTOMATIC 7 SEATER, Met blue, air con....£5,995
06 06 KIA RIO 1.5 GS CRDI DIESEL, Met blue, 5 dr, air con, 39,000 mls, £90 per annum road tax £4,295

03 53 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.5 TD5 AUTOMATIC, Met red, 7 seater, air con, alloys, FSH,....£9,995
00 X LANDROVER FREELANDER 2.5 ES AUTOMATIC, Met red, air con, alloys, leather....£2,995

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04 04 PEUGEOT 307 SW S HDi ESTATE, Diesel, Met Blue, air con, sunroof....£4,295
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02 02 ROVER 75 2.0 CLUB AUTOMATIC, Met gold, new recon engine just fitted £2,295

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09 09 SKODA 1.6 2 AUTOMATIC, Met grey, 5 dr, 1 owner, air con, FSH, 10,000 mls....£6,995
06 55 SKODA FABIA BOHEMIA 16v ESTATE, Air con, alloy wheels, met blue £3,995
02 02 SKODA FABIA 1.4 CLASSIC ESTATE, Black, 51,000 mls £2,995

07 57 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.5 GLX 5dr, Air Con, 1 Owner, Low Miles £5,995
03 53 SUZUKI WAGON R+SPECIAL 1.3, Silver, alloy wheels....£2,995
02 02 SUZUKI WAGON R+ SPECIAL, Silver, 44,000mls £2,795

06 56 TOYOTA COROLLA SR 1.6, Met blue, 5 dr, air con, alloys, FSH, 23,000 mls £6,995
01 Y TOYOTA AVENSIS 1.8 GS AUTOMATIC, Silver, 5 dr, air con, FSH, 74,000 mls....£2,495

07 57 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE, 7 seater, black, one owner, air con, 31,000 mls....£6,695
06 06 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB ESTATE, Met gold, air con, alloys, FSH, 50,000mls....£5,595
06 06 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 LIFE, Metallic, air con, FSH 34,000 mls....£5,295
06 56 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LIFE, 5 dr, air con, FSH, 1 owner £4,295
05 55 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN, Met blue, air con, elec window and mirrors....£3,995
02 02 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB, 7 seater, silver, air con....£2,995

05 05 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF TDi SE AUTO, Black, 5-dr, air con, alloy wheels....£6,995
04 04 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GT TD, Met grey, 6 speed, air con, alloys £6,995

CARS TO CLEAR

01 Y VAUXHALL VECTRA SRi 150, silver, 5dr....£1,695
98 R FORD FIESTA 1.2 5 GHIA, Met red, 5 dr, air con, 54,000 mls....£1,295
03 03 ROVER 25 1.4i XL, Silver, 5 dr....£1,295
99 V VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LS....£795

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Q My husband has been offered a Premier Current Account by our bank, Lloyds TSB. I think it looks expensive, but he says the benefits are worth more than the monthly £25 fees. If he is right, is there any account that I can point him towards that would give similar benefits but cost less? AS

A This is a "packaged account" at the top end of the price scale, and everything depends on your lifestyle. If you and your husband are jet-setters who travel the world clutching your mobile phones, then you might benefit from the Premier account. But the chances are that you could do better by picking and choosing the various perks that go into the package, and then buying them elsewhere. The benefits include travel insurance, international mobile phone insurance, and access to a privileged lounge at the airport. There is also credit card protection and AA breakdown cover. All of these are available elsewhere, and if you need them, you will probably have them already. And if you belong to the AA, you may well have more than just breakdown insurance – so paying for it as part of a packaged account means paying twice over. The watchdog Financial Services Authority has some concerns over the spread of packaged accounts. It is making inquiries into the way all the big banks market them. For example, some customers may not be eligible to make a claim under travel policies, perhaps because of their age or pre-existing poor health, so they end up paying for insurance that is no use to them. Could your husband get a packaged account more cheaply elsewhere? Yes, of course. Natwest's Advantage Gold account costs only £12.95 a month. It includes Green Flag breakdown cover, travel insurance and mobile phone insurance, as well as some holiday and hotel discounts. But the same golden rule applies – check the benefits and see how much use you would make of them. Try not to end up paying again for perks you already have elsewhere.

Q I am tempted by Nationwide's Protected Equity Bond as it pays 7pc interest, with more if the stock market rises. Normally, I would avoid anything connected to shares, but this appears to guarantee that my money could not go down. SO

A With interest rates very low, it is not surprising that investors are attracted to any scheme that offers a 7pc return. But I hope you noticed that this is a six-year investment, and that 7pc is the total return, not an annual figure! This works out at 1.13pc each year, which is pretty much what you can get elsewhere without locking up your savings until 2017. And there is a cap on the profit you can make if share prices do rise. This works out at a maximum annual gain of 6.99pc. True, your savings will not go down, but I doubt that they will go up by very much, either. And you may need your money at some point in the next six years.

Q My sincere thanks for your advice in December to people who were taxed under Pay As You Earn but are now being told they owe in excess of £1,000 in unpaid tax from the previous two years. On the day the article appeared, I received a letter from HM Revenue to say I had underpaid £1,056. I challenged this, as you advised, and yesterday I received an official letter to say I need not pay it. RS

A It is always good to learn that a piece of advice has worked out so well. For the benefit of other readers, my advice was that the instruction manual for tax officials includes something called Extra Statutory Concession A19. This says that tax can be cancelled if you declared all your income and arrears were caused through mistakes by the taxman or a failure to make use of the information you supplied.

Q According to the BBC, interest rates are expected to rise soon. Assuming I can get a mortgage, would a fixed-rate loan be better than a tracker, even though it would cost more at first? TLP

A I do expect a rate rise, but not a sharp one. The Bank of England is unlikely to risk the economic recovery with any major increase. I would opt for a tracker mortgage, but you could try for the best of both worlds as the Skipton Building Society (0845 850 1711) offers a tracker at 3.49pc interest with the option to transfer to a fixed rate later.

Q Our daughter will be going to university in Durham. If we buy a flat that she can share with other students, and they pay rent to her, could we be liable for any income tax? GT

A If the flat is yours, then the rental income is yours, even if your daughter collects it. You can claim tax relief for quite a few expenses, though. There is a useful list in the Money section of the government website www.direct.gov.uk

If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Food price inflation unfair, says report

By ED FOSS
MyMoney24 writer

Food price inflation in the UK could be described as unfair or excessive, according to a new report by a leading investment bank.

And a formal government-led food price inquiry could be sparked by the behaviour of supermarkets in raising their prices above and beyond what is justified by inflationary pressures, the report from UBS has warned.

Commodity price inflation over the past few months would justify a 3pc to 3.5pc increase in processed food prices, but supermarkets have increased prices by 6pc to 6.5pc, said the bank.

UBS economist Paul Donovan, who co-wrote the report, said: "That suggests there may be margin expansion in the supermarket sector.

"Prices are rising in excess of justifiable cost increases."

He added that price increases by supermarkets were adding 0.3 to 0.5 percentage points to the official consumer prices index of inflation, currently at 4pc.

The research also showed shoppers were seeing steeper rises in food prices than most other members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

According to UBS, food prices in Britain have been rising at an annual rate of 4.9pc, compared with a Eurozone average of 1.8pc.

A weak pound had contributed to the UK increase, but the scale of inflation had made Britain the OECD country "most vulnerable" to political interference.

"UK food prices are rising more rapidly than most other OECD economies' food prices, and have significantly outstripped food retailers' cost inflation.

"This could allow UK politicians to suggest that food price inflation is 'unfair' or 'excessive'."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A new report by UBS has found that food prices have risen by 6pc to 6.5pc in some stores.

A British Retail Consortium spokesman said: "There is no question that grocery prices in this country are still lower than most other European countries because of our intensely competitive supermarket industry. Food prices have not risen at anything like the same rate as commodity prices.

"It is clear that supermarkets are shielding customers from the full impact."

Stop smoking to feel much wealthier

BAD HABIT: Quitting saves money.

Stubbing out the fags could see smokers being better off by thousands of pounds – and not just because they have stopped forking out on tobacco.

With National No-Smoking Day coming round again, the data crunchers at Moneysupermarket have calculated that someone who kicks the habit could save themselves an average of £6,659 on a combined critical illness cover (CIC) and life cover policy, or up to £1,570 on a single life-insurance policy.

Meanwhile, with the average smoker getting through about 14 cigarettes a day, someone giving up could save more than £1,800 a year on tobacco. At a time when many people are seeing the cost of living going through the roof, it's something well worth considering – above and beyond the obvious health benefits.

"Not only can smokers reap the medical benefits by kicking the habit, they can avoid letting their hard-earned cash go up in smoke," said Emma Walker, head of protection at Moneysupermarket.

"With significant savings to be made, those who make the decision to quit should shop around for the best insurance deals to suit their circumstances."

It's important to remember that insurers will insist a smoker has kicked the habit for a full year in order to be classed as a "non-smoker" and qualify for savings on their life-insurance premiums.

In the news

Go green at home without the huge bills

Best buys

Check out the leading deals on loans

On the blogs

Robert Clarke

What is it with the Belgians?

Almary Green

How to beat the EU's insurance crackdown

By **ADAM AIKEN**
MyMoney24 editor

This week's ruling by the European Court of Justice means we are likely to see changes to our insurance premiums.

What precisely will happen is yet to become clear, but it is certain that it will be even more important for consumers to shop around for the best deals.

Day-to-day premiums for general insurance are likely to be affected, with young women motorists probably at greatest risk of seeing hikes in their bills.

Another group of people who could see a major impact are those approaching retirement, with fears that men will see their pension payouts cut thanks to the inability of insurers to compensate them for their lower life expectancy.

Whatever age you are, you can expect to see some changes, so here are a few tips from the experts on keeping your car insurance premiums down, and your pension income up.

CAR INSURANCE

Annual mileage

If you drive only about 6,000 miles a year instead of the average 12,000, it's worth selecting the lower mileage on your insurance as it can make a difference to your premiums. But don't underestimate your mileage in the hope of tricking your insurer.

"If you said you drove 6,000 miles a year but you actually drove 20,000, it may invalidate your insurance if you do have to make a claim," said John Miles, business development director at comparison site Gocompare.com.

Courtesy cars

Don't assume that the courtesy car on your policy is standard. It may be an extra you're paying for.

"If you think you could manage without a courtesy car if yours is taken off the road for a while, it's worth seeing how much you could save by removing it from your policy," said Mr Miles.

Increase your excess

Opting for a higher voluntary excess could help to lower your premiums – but you will need to decide if paying a slightly lower premium is worth the risk of having to contribute more towards repairs if you do have to make a claim.

Named drivers

A motorist who is young or inexperienced, or who has made claims or has motoring convictions, can benefit from having a named driver on the policy. "An older driver with a clean licence and plenty of no-claims bonus entitlement could reduce your premium," said Mr Miles. "But if you're the main driver, make sure you're noted as such on the policy. If you say the more experienced person is the main driver when they are not, you're likely to be found guilty of a fraud known as 'fronting', and you could invalidate your insurance."

Protected no-claims

"If you've accumulated several years' no-claims bonus, you may want to consider protecting it so that you still benefit from the discount it entitles you to if you make a claim," said Mr Miles. "This will increase your premiums a little bit but, in the long term, it could pay for itself many times over."

Look around before you renew

Never accept the first quote you're given and never automatically renew. Insurers rarely reward you for loyalty, and people who don't switch will end up subsidising those who do.

PENSIONS

It is not just general insurance that will be affected – pension providers will also be barred from using gender as a factor when deciding what annuities to pay people in retirement. At the moment, men tend to receive a higher monthly income from their annuities because they have a shorter life expectancy than women. But just because gender is being taken out of the equation, it does not mean that all annuities will be the same. Far from it, in fact – using what is called the open market option, you should search to find the insurance company that will give you the most generous monthly income in return for your pension pot.

Don't be put off

Ray Black, an IFA and founder of Money-minder.com, said it was important not to let the publicity generated by the court's decision put you off the idea of a pension.

"Saving into a pension is still extremely tax-efficient, and with new rules regarding the flexibility of what you can do with your pension pot, it is an essential element of retirement planning," he said.

Annuity options

Pension providers will issue you with retirement quotes that have various options, such as a spouse's pension, an annual escalation or a guaranteed period. Shaun Braybrook, an independent financial adviser with NW Brown Financial Services, said: "You are not usually obliged to take the benefits in a particular format, so consideration should be given to which of these options are the most appropriate for you."

Guarantees

"Check whether your pension plan has any guaranteed rates or minimum income levels associated with it," said Mr Braybrook.

"Older policies in particular often include these, and they usually compare very favourably with today's annuity rates. More modern plans will not normally have these guarantees, but it is always worth checking."

Enhanced annuities

Having been encouraged to stay healthy throughout your life, you can benefit from a better pension if you suffer from ill health.

Mr Braybrook said: "A number of insurance companies will turn your pension into a retirement income based on your state of health.

"Any medical or lifestyle conditions, both past and present, could be considered, and many people could now qualify for enhancements even if they suffer from relatively mild problems such as high blood pressure."

Other options

Buying a traditional annuity is not the only way to provide you with a retirement income.

"Other options are available should you wish to take some level of investment risk," said Mr Braybrook. "These can be more complex but could ultimately provide you with a way to boost your retirement income or perhaps leave a greater amount to be passed on to your loved ones."

Mr Black suggested the court ruling could play a part in encouraging income drawdown – taking a cash lump sum – rather than annuities.

"For many years now, annuities haven't offered particularly good value," he said.

"For people with pension pots of more than £100,000, the European Court of Justice ruling could make income drawdown even more attractive."

Start early

"Young people don't think much about what will happen to them when they retire but the simple fact is that the sooner you start putting money into a pension, the better off you'll be when you do give up work," said Mr Black.

"For a basic-rate taxpayer, for every £80 you put into a pension plan, the government will top this up to £100. For a higher-rate taxpayer, the benefits are even greater."

Even if you don't work and don't pay tax, you can still contribute up to £2,880 a year and the government will top it up to £3,600.

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Melton Mowbray Building Society

The Online 100-Day Notice has been launched by the Melton Mowbray. This online-only account pays a monthly rate of 2.75pc. Investors can make deposits of between £1,000 and £250,000. Savers must give 100 days' notice to access funds and early access is not allowed.

A maximum withdrawal limit of £10,000 a day also applies. All transactions must be made via a nominated account. Savers must be aged 16 and over.

Why is it good?

This rate features as one of the market leaders for monthly interest, although investors must plan ahead if they need to access funds as no early access is permitted.

Savings: Halifax

Halifax has launched its Isa Direct Reward paying an annual rate of 3pc, including a variable bonus of 2.5pc for 12 months. The rate reverts to that of the Isa Saver Direct (currently paying 0.5pc) after 12 months. The minimum investment is £1 and the initial deposit must be made within 28 days of opening the account. Transfers in are accepted. The account is available to savers aged 16 and over and can be operated online or by telephone.

Why is it good?

The rate on this new product is 0.2pc higher than its predecessor, and the deal sits just below the current market-leading no-notice Isa.

Mortgages: Principality Building Society

The society has reduced its buy-to-let variable tracker rate mortgages by up to 0.3pc. The new two-year tracker deal offers a rate of 3.19pc, has a maximum loan-to-value of 60pc and has a fee of 2.5pc of the mortgage advance. Incentives of a free valuation and free legal fees for remortgage customers are offered.

Why is it good?

The previously-reduced 3.29pc two-year tracker rate has been dropped again, making it the lowest-priced product over this term.

Personal loans: M&S Money

M&S Money has reduced its unsecured personal loan rate for its £7,500 to £15,000 tier by 0.6pc, to 6.9pc. Customers need to be aged 30 and over or be existing homeowners to apply for this product and be aware that the rates quoted will be dependent on their credit ratings.

Why is it good?

By reducing its rate, M&S Money now offers the lowest rates available for amounts between £7,500 and £15,000. Applicants have the option to defer payments for three months if necessary and the loan term can be as long as seven years.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

THE results of this year's Taste of Kent Awards are in.

Winners were chosen across 12 categories including best restaurant, brewery and food product. The Produced in Kent competition drew more than 10,000 votes from food and drink fans and saw 542 businesses and products nominated for an award – see our report inside.

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Lazenby leaves KRBS weeks after takeover

KENT Reliance boss Mike Lazenby has left the company three weeks after the completion of a £50 million takeover, ***writes Business Editor Simon Robinson.***

Mr Lazenby stood down from the newly-retitled OneSavings Bank on Monday, ending his 11-year tenure as CEO.

His departure comes just three weeks after US private equity firm JC Flowers' takeover of the Chatham-based mutual went through.

Mr Lazenby said: "It has been a pleasure to serve members' interests as CEO of Kent Reliance and latterly as CEO of OneSavings Bank. I am proud of the strong reputation we have built in retail financial services, and it has been a privilege to work with such a talented team.

"I have no doubt OneSavings Bank will go from strength-to-strength while retaining its mutual ethos at the heart of the business."

OneSavings Bank chairman Malcolm McCaig said: "Mike is a passionate supporter of mutuality and had the foresight to recognise the need for Kent Reliance to seek a partner to preserve its mutual ethos and develop its franchise.

DEPARTURE: Mike Lazenby was at the helm of Kent Reliance for 11 years

"He played a key part in the creation of OneSavings Bank, and, in doing so, has helped protect the interests of members as part of a bigger, better capitalised and competitive player in the financial services sector.

"Having achieved this, Mike and the board have agreed that the time is right for him to step down from his position as CEO.

"The board would like to thank him for all he has done for KRBS and OneSavings Bank and for his role in creating such a strong foundation for future growth. We wish him well in his future endeavours."

KRBS officially became OneSavings Bank on February 1 after 75.8 per cent of members voted in favour of the JC Flowers deal – 75 per cent approval was needed for the deal to go through. Speaking at the time, Mr Lazenby said the takeover would not immediately affect the way KRBS operates.

He said: "We will continue to run as a mutual until JC Flowers owns 90 per cent of the business, which is a long way off.

"They have also agreed not to pay any dividends to their investors for the next five years, which is an incredibly long time in business. For example, five years ago we couldn't possibly have imagined the economy would be the way it is today.

"If they decide after five years that they want their money back – and it's not been agreed that they will – then that would give us the option to buy them out. It's not a given that everything will be over and we'll become a proper bank.

"Five years is a long way off and a lot of things will happen before then. In the meantime we'll be going back to lending people money, which we haven't been able to do for some time, and we'll be offering some pretty good rates."

Professor's stimulating tax theory

LONG VIEW: The University of Kent at Canterbury provides a backdrop for the cathedral across the Stour valley

AN ECONOMIST based at the University of Kent at Canterbury has claimed a slight tax switch could help the country drag its way out of recession.

A study co-authored by Professor Christopher Heady found that switching some of the tax burden from personal and corporate income towards housing and consumption could boost recovery.

Working with a team of researchers from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Prof Heady found that taxes on consumption, such as VAT, and taxes on the ownership or occupation of houses, such as council tax, are the best way to stimulate longer-term growth. Coupled with income tax cuts, a shift of just one per cent of tax revenues in this direction could increase economic output by between 0.25 to one per cent, the research team found.

Their findings are published in this month's issue of The Economic Journal.

"When the economy is in recession, the best taxes to cut early are on income taxes for people on low incomes," said Prof Heady.

"When, as now, the economy is in recovery and the budget deficit needs to be reduced, the best taxes to increase are taxes on consumption and on the ownership or occupation of houses. Although taxes on housing are unpopular and could produce only modest increases in revenue, they should be considered because the current arrangements can encourage people to buy houses that are larger than they really need, diverting investment from more productive uses.

"However, taxes on the sale of housing, such as Stamp Duty, should not be increased because they discourage the reallocation of housing to its most productive use and make it expensive for people to move to better jobs. These taxes could even be reduced if sufficient additional revenues were raised from other taxes on housing."

Comment

HIGH-achieving women continue to hit their heads on the impermeable glass ceiling, according to Lord Davies' latest report. Mervyn Davies, who now goes by the grand title of Lord Davies of Abersoch, found that big businesses' boardrooms remain something of a boys' club.

The most recent research by Cranfield School of Management shows women hold just 12.5 per cent of board seats on FTSE 100 firms and only 5.5 per cent of the executive posts available.

Lord Davies' Women on Boards report calls on these firms to increase the number of women in these positions to 25 per cent by 2015.

If this voluntary target is not met, Lord Davies suggested that Government should look to introduce quotas to force the FTSE firms' hands into opening the door to women at the top level.

His precise wording is delightful. In summation of his findings and advice to Government, he writes: "On balance the decision has been made not to recommend quotas. Government must reserve the right to introduce more prescriptive alternatives if the recommended business-led approach does not achieve significant change."

I'm less inclined to proceed with a by-the-numbers quota system. The number of women in boardrooms should be increased but it should be based on meritocracy alone.

Promoting women to the top positions purely as part of a Government target-hitting exercise is no less sexist and demeaning as overlooking them in the first place.

If a female employee has the right credentials and is the most suitable and capable candidate, then it is only right that she should be given the job – any job – over a male counterpart.

These quotas would see the prejudicial balance shift from one extreme to the other.

Vacancies should be filled on the tried-and-tested basis of merit. A stricter and more severe industrial tribunal system would soon see the number of women who successfully and deservedly smash the glass ceiling soar.

SIMON ROBINSON, Business Editor
Twitter: @KOSbusiness

Firm finds the right chemistry

A HI-TECH chemical analysis firm has been brought back from the brink through the expertise of a business advisor.

Laserchrom founder Dr Stuart Jones was considering pulling the plug on the established Medway-based company when the recession took hold in 2009.

But a meeting with a Business Link advisor which identified the firm's unique attributes helped Dr Jones turn the corner.

He said: "We looked at areas of the business such as our chemical expertise and equipment. These are not unique, whereas our hands-on training courses are specific to this niche sector and relatively rare even in the world market.

EXPERTISE: Dr Stuart Jones

"Our advisor suggested this was better than anything anyone else was offering, so this was where we needed to focus our efforts."

The company's training services, rebranded as the Stuart Jones HPLC Academy, saw a 300 per cent increase in bookings within a month.

Dr Jones said: "We continue to provide our core services, but the sudden growth of this one aspect is making all the difference. We now regularly work with food companies, oil refineries, power stations and others, as well as ongoing contracts with two UK universities and others abroad to run the HPLC part of their undergraduate and postgraduate courses."

Business Link's Kent advisor manager Tony Logan said: "It's great to see skilled and committed people getting the rewards they deserve."

Channel share boost

FERRY operator DFDS Seaways increased its Dover market share for the sixth consecutive year, new figures show.

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

The company, formerly Norfolkline, has seen its hold of the port's car ferry market increase year-on-year since 2003, rising from three per cent to 30 per cent last year.

Figures from IRN Ferrystats reveal that DFDS Seaways' Dover-Dunkirk car numbers also went up tenfold during the same period, from 85,000 to 850,000.

The company's Chris Newey said: "We are proud to have built such an excellent team, both ashore and on-board, who have provided a superb service.

"Customers have voted with their business. The growth is primarily a result of hard work, but we have also benefited from having a new fleet of purpose-built vessels."

P&O remains the dominant force in Dover, with a 42 per cent share in 2010. SeaFrance, which has consistently handled about 25 per cent of ferry crossings, was pushed into third place by DFDS in 2009.

The operator improved year-on-year, taking its share from 22 per cent in 2009 to 24 per cent last year, but remains in third place, ahead of Hoverspeed, which took four per cent of the car crossings in 2010.

A spokesman said: "SeaFrance is pleased to have maintained market share in an increasingly competitive cross-Channel market.

"This has been achieved without resorting to price-cutting, by which means other operators have increased their share, and is a testament to our continued good value.

"Last year, SeaFrance took 13 per cent more cars than in 2009 and this year has started well, with January car carryings for the short-sea sector up 4.5 per cent against January 2010."

A P&O spokesman declined to comment on the figures.

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Eagle's organic growth

FAIR-trading firm Eagle Vending is on track to double its turnover after securing £50,000 funding from Lloyds TSB.

The Rochester-based company, which supplies, distributes and stocks vending machines was awarded the cashflow boost by the bank's commercial finance division.

The firm – the UK's sole distributor of fair-trade vending machines – will use the money to bring a low-calorie hot chocolate machine to market.

Managing director Mike Steele said: "Moving into providing fair-trade, healthy food and beverages was an important step for the company and we have seen increased popularity and acceptance of the products over the past few years, helped along by high-profile campaigners such as Jamie Oliver.

"As the economy improved, we found we needed a cashflow boost to support our organic growth and ensure we had sufficient headroom to capitalise on opportunities such as launching our new beverage dispenser.

"The factoring facility has given us increased liquidity and flexibility by growing in line with sales.

"It has also freed up a considerable amount of admin time as it has a built-in debt management function to chase outstanding invoices."

BANK ON IT: Eagle Vending's Mike Steele and Paul Rice of Lloyds TSB

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

TOURISM bosses will jet off to Florida this month to promote Kent's cruise connections.

Representatives of the Visit Kent Cruise Partnership will set up stall at the Cruise Shipping Miami exhibition from Monday to Thursday, March 14-17, in the hope of enticing Americans into setting sail for the Garden of England.

The British delegates will use events such as the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton in April, the Open Golf 2011 – being held at Royal St George's, Sandwich – and the 2012 London Olympics as part of their transatlantic pitch.

Visit Kent's Cheryl Parker said: "The exhibition is the perfect place for the Visit Kent Cruise Partnership to reach cruise and tour operators and travel writers from around the world and talk to them about what a great destination Kent is."

PRINTING services company Response Envelopes has created three new posts after relocating to Kent. The firm has moved six employees from their Croydon base to new offices at Springhead Enterprise Park in Northfleet.

A full-time printer has been recruited to help run the firm's new press and two more positions are likely to be created soon. The firm's Zak Park said: "Since working from the new office we've experienced growth in sales and purchased a new printing press."

KENT-based business brothers Simon and Jon Miles have acquired a recycling and waste management company.

The Sevenoaks siblings have taken control of Cambridgeshire firm Singh UK, their third firm in the industry.

The pair have previously owned medical waste business Polkacrest and Verdant, a national waste management company.

Singh UK employs 50 staff and has a turnover of £5 million.

It has three operational centres in March, Peterborough and Whittlesey.

The company can process up to 100,000 tonnes of waste a year.

ACCOUNTANCY recruiting consultancy Goldhawk Associates has reported a 30 per cent increase in vacancies year-on-year.

The Maidstone firm said the first-quarter boom included an unexpected surge in activity from the construction and house building sectors.

Founder Corita Goldhawk said: "Despite all the doom and gloom stories in the media, the market is particularly buoyant at the moment."

Goldhawk said the rise in vacancies was linked to companies looking to expand and increased confidence in the economy.

ONLINE job firm Recruitment Genius has given its website a £50,000 upgrade.

Bosses at the Sevenoaks-based company said the new site would serve as a platform for future growth and help deliver long-term profits.

Chief executive Geoff Newman said: "Online recruitment is not just the future but the 'now'. Businesses are looking for a more cost-effective, reliable method of recruiting staff.

"However, in order to be able to truly support businesses of varying sizes and varying recruitment needs, we need to ensure we are robust enough to do this effectively.

"Our business model might seem simple and to some degree it is. However, we are also a finely-tuned machine which combines significant IT investment with highly -trained staff to ensure our service is seamless."

Davies' verbal hammer taps the 'glass ceiling'

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

BIG businesses must smash the glass ceiling for women or face strict quotas, Lord Davies has warned.

In his Women on Boards report, the former Labour trade minister recommends UK-listed FTSE 100 firms should aim to increase female board representation to 25 per cent by 2015.

Women currently occupy just 12.5 per cent of these boardroom positions.

For Lord Davies' target to be reached a third of all new board appointments – 135 in total – will need to go to women in the next four years.

Should business fail to hit the one-in-four female board members figure, the former Standard Chartered chairman has hinted that they face the introduction of "more prescriptive changes" in the form of enforced quotas.

Lord Davies' report also recommends that companies should set targets for 2013 and 2015 to ensure that more talented and gifted women can get into the top jobs in companies across the UK.

Firms should also fully disclose the number of women on their boards and working in their organisations as a whole in order to drive up the numbers with top jobs in business.

Lord Davies said: "During the past 25 years the number of women in full-time employment has increased by more than a third and there have been many steps towards gender equality in the workplace, with flexible working and the Equal Pay Act. However, there is still a long way to go.

"Currently, 18 FTSE 100 companies have no female directors at all and nearly half of all FTSE 250 companies do not have a woman in the boardroom. Radical change is needed in the mindset of the business community if we are to implement the scale of change needed.

"This is not about aiming for a specific figure and is not just about promoting equal opportunities, but it is about improving business performance. There is growing evidence to show that diverse boards are better boards, delivering financial performance and growth.

"I have been pleased to see the huge amount of interest this review has sparked both from individual businesses and industry groups. I hope the recommendations I have announced will mark the beginning of a step-change so that more of our talented women get seats on our top boards."

• ***Have your say: leave a comment on www.businessforkent.co.uk or email simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk***

'I HAVE experienced gender imbalance in business and politics.

'I have managed to enjoy a career and have a family, but there is much to be done and some of Lord Davies' proposals may find wider application. I am encouraged by his attitude towards quotas. Positive discrimination can demean a woman's real value and alienate men. Our aspiration must be the creation of fair, real and equal opportunities where meritocracy wins. This is an exciting time for the promotion of women in business, the professions and politics. Government has a role but legislation will not fix the problem. There needs to be a shift in attitudes and behaviour.'

HELEN GRANT MP,
Maidstone and the Weald

'WOMEN have so much talent to bring to businesses. But, all too often, by taking career breaks to have children, are unfortunately still seen by some as being less committed than men.

'On returning to work, they can find it difficult to rise above a certain level in their careers. However, many women are incredibly ambitious and hard-working and although may not be able to work the traditional nine to five, are more resourceful, creative and productive with their time.

'I welcome every move that allows talented women to move up to board level and bring all their skills to the fore.'

SAMANTHA BLANCHARD MBA,
head of marketing, Kent Business School

'R&D base closure will affect housing market'

PFIZER'S planned departure from Sandwich could have a detrimental effect on the property market in east Kent, according to a law firm.

Senior partner at Fosters Law, Edward Foster, said although the lower end of the market would most likely remain stable, those in homes worth £250,000 and upwards could be forced to drop prices in order to sell.

His warning follows the announcement that the pharmaceutical giant was leaving east Kent, putting at least 2,400 jobs at risk and raising concerns about an exodus from the area.

Mr Foster said: "If the market is suddenly filled with properties prices will fall. Properties in places such as Ash and Wingham, where it is usually more expensive to buy, will become accessible. As soon as a large supply of properties enters the market it becomes a buyers' market.

"Pfizer employees may have to accept less than what they paid for their properties."

Mr Foster said the impact would also affect rental homes, where landlords would have to drop their charges.

"If you can get an executive four-bedroom house for £200 less, no one is going to pay more," he said.

Mr Foster said another effect of Pfizer leaving would be employees downsizing as a result of skilled workers having to take lower-paid jobs.

"This would increase demand at the lower end of the market and this area, up to £250,000, would therefore remain stable – supply and demand would balance out," he said.

Steve Evans, associate director of estate agents Oakwood Homes, which has offices across east Kent, said Pfizer's decision could have an impact on the number of people moving to the area.

"I'm not expecting a large impact in terms of property prices. A lot depends on the time frame of the Pfizer situation," he said. "If we're looking at people leaving the area over two or three years, it's probably not going to have a large impact.

"However, people who may have been looking to make an aspirational move to the area for work may reconsider," he said.

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

Finalists Igloo keep cool

PROUD: Igloo staff and the prize-winning renovation work, below

SPECIALIST period property renovators Igloo have reached the finals of a national building contest.

The building firm, based at Godmersham, near Canterbury, has won a place at the 10th annual Master Builder of the Year Awards after picking up the London region's best large renovation prize for a Bromley residential project (right).

Like all entrants, they were nominated for the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) awards by a satisfied customer, something which made Igloo's Duncan Worboyes particularly proud.

He said: "We approach every job with the same attention to detail. That said, it is gratifying to be nominated by one of our many satisfied customers and even more so to be recognised for the quality of our work by our peers at the FMB."

FMB London regional director John Watson said: "The standard of entries in London this year is among the highest we have seen in the 10-year history of the awards and reflects the expertise, attention to detail and dedication of the nation's builders.

"Igloo has done a fantastic job to win the London region award and we wish them well in the national competition."

If Igloo wins the Master Builder of the Year 2011 title, staff will drive away a new light Nissan commercial vehicle of their choice. The customer who nominated them is also rewarded with a £3,000 holiday of their choice.

Maturing into

KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent, has been dedicated to promoting tourism in the county for 13 years. She has more than 20 years' experience in the industry, in both the public and private sectors. She has led Visit Kent for six years, following on from her role as director at Leeds Castle.
Her CV includes director of marketing at the South East England Tourist Board in the late 1990s and she is a Fellow of the Tourism Society. She played a key role in securing seven million euros in EU funding for the development of tourism in the run up to the 2012 London Olympic Games.
KOS Media business editor SIMON ROBINSON spoke to her

CONFIDENT: Sandra Matthews-Marsh

VISIT Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh has 63,000 colleagues. The tourism boss is responsible for bringing these industry professionals working in a wide range of businesses across the county together for the common good.

After all, if visitor numbers rise, so do profits for all. Mrs Matthews-Marsh says the all-in-it-together ethos is key to her organisation's mission statement. Speaking at Visit Kent's Canterbury city centre headquarters, she outlines the group's two-fold purpose.

"The first goal is to support Kent's 63,000 tourism jobs an environment where the industry can flourish," she said.

"The second goal is to create a partnership platform on which all businesses can stand together as a unified destination.

"When people visit a destination, it's not straightforward. When you go on holiday you stay in a hotel, go out to eat, visit attractions and so on. So the idea of Kent businesses working together makes sense."

Creating this Kent tourism company co-operative has taken time, but Mrs Matthews-Marsh said the organisation had now reached "maturity".

"I was invited to come on board to help the business when it was quite embryonic. We only had a few investors and were coming to the end of a big funding commitment from Eurotunnel.

"It was a question of can we make this a sustainable business and grow it into something that will genuinely represent the 3,000 tourism businesses in Kent.

"Seven years later, we've built up nearly 300 investors, secured a number of European funding grants and we believe we're now a commercial and viable business that is able to do the job properly.

"We have a critical mass of businesses who believe in us and don't just throw money into the pot but participate at exhibitions and support programmes we do.

"We have reached maturity. We were toddling three years ago, we're now standing up and walking."

THE Visit Kent team has become adept at making the most of the county's assets and maximising returns on the opportunities it is presented with. They began work on the 2012 Olympic Games three years before they were awarded to London.

The sports department was similarly proactive on the golfing front, working behind the scenes long before Sandwich was picked as host of this year's Open.

And they are also heavily involved in the development of Kent's wide range of existing and soon-to-be open tourist attractions, who receive particular praise from Mrs Matthews-Marsh.

She said: "A large part of our success is down to our partners' product improvements.

"For example, the Folkestone Triennial has proved a huge success; the Turner Contemporary is set to open in April; and the Marlowe Theatre is also set to reopen. All of these are great cultural assets that are coming to the fore.

"We couldn't achieve anything without our partners as we're only as good as they are. They are making their products better and have created a big momentum and energy that we are trying to capture and lift."

The tourism group has spent heavily in a bid to keep the ball rolling, with £400,000 being allocated to the Kent Contemporary campaign. Billboards promoting the Garden of England have been placed across the capital in a bid to entice Londoners and residents from neighbouring counties to come to Kent.

The first phase of posters saw a 47:1 return on investment.

MRS Matthews-Marsh said: "We sent the figures back a number of times for stress testing because we were so impressed by the result. They are phenomenal. We are delighted – well above the industry standard. The campaign was set up to make people look again at Kent, show it again in a new, fresh way.

"The campaign was very clever but very simple. We already attract 45 million visitors a year to Kent but a lot of people on our doorstep overlook it. We were trying to reach these people and our research shows that we have done.

"The key message is that Kent is contemporary. We've got all the great heritage such as the White Cliffs and Leeds Castle, but we've also got great food, wonderful events, fabulous cultural assets, a great coastline – these are things that people are surprised to learn Kent has."

The first phase of the billboard campaign used photographs of Kent landmarks such as Hever Castle, Botany Bay and the Goods Shed in Canterbury, but Mrs Matthews-Marsh is hopeful that one of the county's newest tourist attractions, the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate, will have similar pulling-power to its established rivals.

"With Turner Contemporary, maintaining

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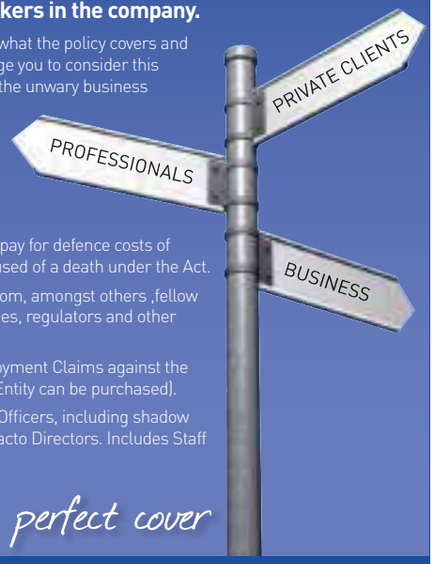
Statistics show that as few as 15% of SME business owners/managers buy this policy which protects not only the entity but also key decision makers in the company.

This is mainly due to lack of understanding of what the policy covers and a concern that the costs are prohibitive. We urge you to consider this cover as there are many pitfalls that may trap the unwary business owner these days.



Such as :

- In the Companies Acts alone there are more than 200 provisions for imposing fines and penalties upon Directors.
- Corporate Manslaughter – The policy would pay for defence costs of Directors,officers and senior managers accused of a death under the Act.
- Health & Safety Executive – Covers claims from, amongst others ,fellow directors,shareholders,liquidators,third parties, regulators and other official investigating bodies.
- Employment Law Protection – Covers Employment Claims against the individual. (Employment claims against the Entity can be purchased).
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visitors will be very important," she said.

"Visit Kent has been working closely with Thanet District Council to make sure that what we call the wraparound effect is there, with neighbouring businesses supporting the gallery.

"The thing we have to remember, though, is the reason Turner is in Margate is because it's a tourist town that's been in decline. Turner is in there because of that fact.

"We don't make destinations overnight. We will have a world-class gallery. Turner is the beginning of the turn for Margate.

"There was a degree of frustration around what might be perceived as a lack of other infrastructure, but it's coming. When it opens there will be a lot of private sector entrepreneurs who emerge very quickly, having seen what Margate has to offer.

"There has been cynicism and we understand that, but it's been disappearing day by day. There's building excitement now about the gallery and it's role in the regeneration of the town."

Mrs Matthews-Marsh's enthusiasm for her role is apparent from the outset.

SHE speaks confidently and quickly throughout, leaning forward in her chair keen to stress the positive and far-reaching effects tourism can have across the county.

It seems this passion was ignited at an early age, with the geography and library student heading to Hastings to work in a tourist information centre rather than return to her south London roots.

She spent the next 13 years in the East Sussex seaside town, after moving into local government.

"It was the heyday of tourism beginning to be seen as a regeneration tool within local authorities' framework," Mrs Matthews-Marsh said.

"I had a very happy time there, helping the resort rebuild itself. Hastings had seen a period of decline and decay. To a degree it's still going through that, as are most of our coastal towns.

"It's a bit of a long haul and there are a lot of parallels between places like Hastings and Margate and Folkestone."

The South East England Tourist Board and later Leeds Castle came calling, with Mrs Matthews-Marsh taking up the roles of marketing director and then marketing and operations manager.

Her time at Leeds Castle prepared her for her current role at Visit Kent and threw in a few A-list celebrities along the way.

"In my time at Leeds Castle I gained good experience at how to run a business, learning about heritage and how to manage a big budget. It was a wonderful experience. I worked all kinds of crazy hours but I also got to meet the Prime Minister, who came for a conference, the Duke of York and Elton John. I even got to see Pavarotti perform live."

While Mrs Matthews-Marsh speaks fondly of her 20-year tourism career, she is more enthused about what the future holds.

"We'll be spending a lot of time promoting rural Kent, which is very exciting," she said. "We also have a new programme about showing how the county is a great place for art and culture. Looking further ahead, the anniversary of the Magna Carta is in 2015 and that has a lot of associations to Kent.

"The sports team also has a number of events in the pipeline that we hope will come to fruition. There's lots going on."

NEW DAWN: The Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate will play a key role in the resort's regeneration, says Sandra Matthews-Marsh

SANDRA'S TOP TIPS

- 'Stay flexible and scan the horizon for opportunities'
- 'Our people are the heartbeat of our business we need to listen to them and value them highly'
- 'Make mistakes and learn from them'
- 'Our investors and Kent's tourism business is what we are here for and our greatest strength'
- 'My parents taught me to work hard and believe that you can do anything'

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Food and drink heroes rewarded for their efforts

THE county's top food and drink producers were honoured at the annual Taste of Kent Awards, ***writes Simon Robinson***.

The finalists gathered at Leeds Castle on February 25 hoping to take home a title in one of 12 categories. Winners included The Secret Garden restaurant, near Ashford; Whitstable Brewery; and Kent Fine Foods' lavender jelly, for food product of the year.

The Produced in Kent-backed competition drew 10,000 votes for the second consecutive year and saw 542 businesses and products nominated by the public.

The top three publicly-chosen finalists in each category were then subject to an expert judging panel, mystery shoppers or mystery diners, who selected the final 12 winners.

"Each of these Taste of Kent Award winners, together with the finalists, is doing something amazing in this corner of England," said Julie Monkman of Produced in Kent.

"The Taste of Kent Award winners are our food and drink heroes and have put the Garden of England on the British food and drink map.

TASTY: Winners share the limelight at the Taste of Kent Awards night

"Not only are these entrepreneurs growing, producing or working with local ingredients, but they are helping to revive and maintain traditional Kentish food and drink and centuries old production methods, but with 21st century technology.

"They should all feel proud of what they have achieved and Produced in Kent is deeply honoured to present 2010's dining dynasty to the county."

The awards were presented by BBC Radio Kent broadcaster John Warnett.

THE WINNERS ARE …

Meat Retailer of the Year – Godmersham Game
"We have been shortlisted for Kent Meat Retailer of the Year four years in a row – so it is a total surprise that this year we have won. We were up against the big boys and so pleased that this year we have walked away with the award." – Phil Miles

Best Vineyard – Chapel Down Winery
"We were very proud and honoured to be nominated by the people of Kent to receive this award and delighted to win the Best Kent Vineyard category. Produced in Kent do an amazing job for local producers and as ever the Taste of Kent Awards highlighted all that is great about food and drink from our fantastic county." – Rebecca Hirst, pictured above, with Josh Donaghay-Spire and Sarah Sturt of Kent Life

Local Food Retailer of the Year – Macknade Fine Foods
"I am absolutely thrilled to have won Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year. It means the world to me and to the staff at Macknade. Thank you to all our customers who voted for us, and thank you to all our suppliers who have made us the success we are today." – Stephano Cuomo, owner

Farmers' Market of the Year – Shipbourne
"Winning again gives recognition to our stallholders and our volunteers who together create the unique Shipbourne shopping experience. We want to be able to share this experience with many more shoppers who are looking for both value for money and the best in local produce." – Bob Taylor, market manager, pictured with with Katie Smith-Palomeque of Hadlow College

Juice Producer of the Year – Owlet Fruit Juice
"This is fantastic and we'd like to thank all our customers for voting." – Suzie and Colin Corfield, owners

Artisan Food Producer of the Year – Corinne's Creative Kitchen
"I am so proud to have won. Being a small business this award means so much to us working on our own." – Corinne Goodman, pictured flanked by BBC Radio Kent presenter John Warnett and Jan Loraine of Barclays Bank

Food Product of the Year – Lavender Jelly by Kent Fine Foods
"For someone who works on their own, and doesn't have huge marketing or financial support, it is fantastic to receive countywide recognition for our Lavender Jelly. I'd like to say a big thank you to Produced in Kent and to everyone who voted for our product." Matthew Kearsey-Lawson, owner

Restaurant of the Year – The Secret Garden
"The Secret Garden has been established for five years and we are dedicated to using local seasonal produce. We are very pleased to be awarded Kent Restaurant of the Year and will make sure all our customers get to hear that we have won this award." – Stephanie Wanstall, owner

Dining Pub of the Year – The Plough at Stalisfield Green
"It is once again a fantastic feeling to win. We work very hard to source local produce and drink to serve in the pub, preferring to go straight to the farmers for beef, lamb and pork. We work with some fabulous producers and enjoy being able to explain to our customers exactly where the food they are eating is from." – Amy Lloyd, landlady, pictured with Stephen Clarke

Best Cider Maker - Biddenden Vineyards
"Having been nominated in three categories, we were delighted to be Best Cider Maker once again. The awards are very important to us as they bring together the best food and drink producers across our county, and to be shortlisted to the top three in three categories reflects our support from our customers, both trade and retail." – Julian Barnes, managing director, pictured with Hugh Summerfield

Best Brewery – Whitstable Brewery
"We know we produce great products but to win this award through a democratic vote is great. We work hard and so this is a nice reward." – Julian Herrington, brewer

Seafood Retailer of the Year – Sankey's
"Co-owner Graeme Anderson and I were quite surprised to win. We've only been trading for 18 months but have put a huge amount of effort in.
"To be recognised by the public is fantastic. There's no greater accolade than your customers saying you're the best at what you do." – Matthew Sankey, co-owner

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Grain gas deal will keep the home fires burning

ENERGY DEAL: The first shipment of LNG is expected to dock at the Isle of Grain in June

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

A LANDMARK liquid gas deal will see £2 billion of fuel pass through the National Grid's Isle of Grain terminal in the next three years.

Energy suppliers Centrica signed a contract with Qatargas to buy 2.4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) – a tenth of Britain's annual consumption.

The long-term agreement is the first signed by a UK firm, with previous LNG deliveries bought per tanker on a fluctuating "spot market".

But with LNG use in the UK set to rise from 15 per cent last year to 50 per cent by 2025, more of the country's energy giants are likely to follow suit.

Centrica chief executive Sam Laidlaw said: "The UK is the largest gas consumer in Europe and one of the fastest growing markets for gas imports. LNG provides the UK with a bridge to major global gas reserves. This deal is of particular importance and we hope that this will be the start of a longer-term working relationship.

"The relationship between Qatar, the world's leading LNG exporter, and the UK connects supplier and consumer nations. Securing gas supplies benefits our customers, underpins our business and provides an important component of the UK's long term energy security."

Prime Minister David Cameron, who saw the contract confirmed during a business tour of the Middle East, said: "I welcome the announcement by Centrica and Qatargas. This important agreement is good for Britain, good for our energy security, good for jobs and good for economic growth."

The last phase of expansion work at the Isle of Grain LNG terminal was completed last year at a cost of £310 million.

The site now has a daily capacity of 59 million cubic metres of gas – enough to supply up to 12 million homes.

Grain already has the largest tank capacity of any terminal in the UK and looks set to be further developed.

National Grid confirmed that a fourth phase of expansion was being discussed and that additional capacity, should there be sufficient market interest, could be available from winter 2015/16.

BP, E.on Ruhrgas and Sonatrach are among the other customers to use the Isle of Grain terminal. Centrica's first Qatar-to-Kent shipment under the new deal is expected to arrive in June.

Rapid developments in the Gulf

SOUTH East companies are being encouraged to look to the Gulf states for new business partners.

Government trade bosses say firms across the region can capitalise on the Middle East's rapid business development and diversification.

The Gulf states have branched out from the traditional gas and oil sectors, creating new opportunities across a range of industries including infrastructure, low-carbon technologies, education, healthcare and finance.

Delegation

Trade and investment minister Lord Green, who visited the Gulf with Prime Minister David Cameron and a business delegation, said British firms were playing a major part in the ongoing development of the region.

"I was delighted to be visiting the Gulf with an impressive delegation representing the UK's top businesses and universities," he said.

"The delegates showcased the wide range of business opportunities on offer for UK firms in the region.

"These and other British firms are supporting the creation of some of the world's most modern infrastructure in the Gulf.

"They are helping develop knowledge-driven and greener economies as well as providing education, healthcare and new technologies to the region's young and fast-growing populations.

"Thousands of firms are already doing business across the Gulf. UK Trade & Investment has identified key opportunities in infrastructure, particularly ports, airports and railways as well as social infrastructure, including healthcare and education, and the energy sector."

Samir Brikho, CEO and British business ambassador for AMEC, which has a site in Ashford, said: "The Middle East is an important region to AMEC and sits on the strategic path to the delivery of AMEC's Vision 2015 strategy. We see real opportunity for AMEC's capabilities throughout the region."

Sir Frank Williams, team principal for the Williams Formula One team, said: "Two years ago, we established the Williams Technology Centre in Qatar to develop technology originally derived from our F1 racing team.

Progress

"We have been delighted with the progress made to date and in a very short space of time have managed to secure new customers for the simulator and energy storage devices we are developing in Qatar.

"The business infrastructure in Qatar, along with access to the qualified students graduating from the universities in Education City in Doha, make Qatar an ideal venue for us to fulfil our research and development projects.

"We have already made many friends in Qatar and hope to make many more."

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight on hospitality

Late bloomer Drury lapping up life in the Championship

Sports editor **GLENN PEARSON** talks exclusively to midfielder Andrew Drury about his rise from non-league football with Kent clubs to rubbing shoulders with Jimmy Bullard at Ipswich

WHILE Chris Smalling's move from non-league football to Manchester United via Fulham made all the headlines last year, there was another rags to riches story that escaped largely under the radar during theJanuary transfer window.

Andrew Drury's £150,000 move from Luton Town to Championship side Ipswich Town may not have been global news, but the former Sittingbourne, and Gravesend & Northfleet, man's dramatic rise up the football pyramid is no less noteworthy or impressive.

Having cut his teeth in the depths of the non-league game with the Brickies and then the Fleet, the 27-year-old played for Lewes and then Stevenage in the Conference Premier, who he helped gain promotion to the Football League last season. However Drury, who boasts an FA Trophy winners' medal, declined a chance to play League Two football against the likes of Gillingham this season – a club that had turned down the chance to sign the midfielder when Andy Hessenthaler was in charge with the Gills in the Championship – instead choosing to stay in the Conference with Luton Town.

His displays as a combative midfielder hadn't gone unnoticed and when Paul Jewell took over the reins at Ipswich from Roy Keane at the end of last year, the former Wigan boss swooped to sign Drury in the transfer window on a two-and-a-half year deal.

'It's definitely more intense and if you give the ball away in the Championship teams will punish you'

Any questions about his ability to adapt to life in the Championship were quickly dispelled when Drury, who went to school at Fulston Manor in Sittingbourne, put in a man-of-the-match performance on his Town debut in the 1-1 draw with Hull City last month. It wasn't enough to keep his place in the side, however, as Drury was replaced by Jimmy Bullard, himself a former Fleet player, for the games against QPR and Portsmouth. But he is hoping to have done enough in training and in a handful of substitute appearances to warrant an extended run in the side.

"When I signed [Jewell] just said he brought me in to play and for me to work as hard as I can," he said. "There have been people playing in my position all season so it's harder for me to break in, but if I keep playing well hopefully I'll get my chance and it's up to me to take it.

"There is a big difference [playing in the Championship], it's definitely more intense and you have to concentrate all the time because if you give the ball away in the Championship, teams will punish you a lot more than they would in the lower levels."

Drury said he was made aware of Ipswich's interest during the transfer window, but Jewell wasn't the only man interested in giving him an opportunity to play in the Championship, as Scunthorpe had lodged their interest, as did another unnamed club at that level. But for Drury, there was only one place he wanted to go.

"I knew there were clubs interested in me and there were a couple of bids in for me from Championship clubs," he said. "But when I knew Ipswich wanted me I told my agent that was the club I wanted to go to. I'd seen the training ground and it's just a big club that's geared up to playing in the Premiership."

LIVING THE DREAM: Andrew Drury is loving life at Ipswich but will never forget his county roots

Pictures: EAST ANGLIAN TIMES and SITTINGBOURNE FC

ON THE BALL: Andrew Drury, pictured against QPR, says he has noticed a difference playing for Ipswich

While some players might be caught up in the hype of a move to a club with such a rich history, the fact Drury has only been a professional footballer for the last three years means he's likely to be more grounded than most. Up until signing for Stevenage in 2008, he had been playing semi-professionally and working part-time as a builder on the Isle of Sheppey.

"I worked until I was 24 and I think that helps me appreciate waking up every day and being a professional footballer, going into training every morning and the lifestyle it brings," he said. "I think I appreciate it more than perhaps some of the youngsters coming through nowadays."

And while he looks to finish off the season on a high with Ipswich, which he concedes looks likely to end up with them missing out on a play-off place, he insists he hasn't forgotten the Fleet or Sittingbourne and looks out for their results every week. Indeed hometown club Sittingbourne is one close to his heart having started his career at Central Park 10 years ago in the old Beazer Homes league. Their current financial plight which is threatening their existence, is not lost on Drury, who expressed just how important a local football club is to a town.

'I worked until I was 24 and it helps me appreciate being a professional footballer'

"Gravesend are doing well in Conference South, but Sittingbourne are struggling a bit which isn't nice to see," he said. "It would be nice if the town could got behind them a little more, people need to realise there is a football club in this town and they should be following them. I used to support them as a kid and now they are only getting crowds of about 100 which is disappointing, especially with people working so hard to keep the club afloat.

"If Sittingbourne weren't around then I don't think I would be where I am today. I broke into the side when I was 17 before moving on, but if Sittingbourne isn't there how are others going to make it? Hopefully something can be done to help them."

And as for his own career in football, there's one place he wants to be playing.

"I've got two-and-a-half years at Ipswich and I want to win stuff," he said. "If we finish this season strongly then next season our goal will be promotion and we'll give it a good go to get in the Premier League."

DRURY'S ROAD TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

CLUB	FEE	TIME AT CLUB	APPEARANCES	GOALS
Ipswich Town	£150,000	Jan 2011 to Present	1 (3)	0
Luton Town	Free	May 2010 to Jan 2011	26 (0)	8
Stevenage Borough	Free	July 2008 to May 2010	54 (11)	8
Lewes	Free	July 2006 to July 2008	38 (0)	7
Gravesend & Northfleet	Nominal	July 2003 to May 2006	91 (12)	19
Sittingbourne	Free	August 2001 to July 2003	98 (0)	0

EARLY YEARS: At Sittingbourne

House at home on the road

A spontaneous attack 60km into stage one of the Tour of South Africa helped Kristian House into the yellow jersey. The Canterbury-born cyclist tells **GLENN PEARSON** how a lonely training schedule paved the way to victory

CYCLING can be a lonely sport, so it's lucky that Kristian House enjoys his own company on the bike. The 31-year-old spent the off-season training in Austin, Texas, often alone, in preparation for the 2011 campaign with his British-based Rapha Condor Sharp team.

Despite taking "a bit of stick" from his team-mates, the training schedule, and more importantly riding alone, paid off handsomely in House's first race of the season: the Tour of South Africa. The Canterbury-born rider retained the yellow jersey he won on the first stage of the week-long tour, to finish more than two minutes ahead of second place in last Sunday's final stage in Paarl, near Cape Town.

LET US SPRAY: Kristian House on the top step celebrates his win

Pictures: GERARD BROWN

LONELY ROAD: Hours of training alone in Texas, paid off on the first stage of the Tour of South Africa as an attack early on won Kristian House the yellow jersey

Attack

After marking several attacks at the start of the 154km opening stage, House attacked from deep 60km into the race and was joined by Czech rider Martin Blaha. The pair opened up a seven-minute gap on the bunch before House staged what proved to be a tour-winning attack.

"It just happened that I got away in that move," he said. "You'll try 100 times to do the same thing and 99 times it won't work, but I managed to get away. I was at the mercy of the bunch and I rode conservatively knowing that, but the guy I was with didn't, he rode hard. It meant my legs were fresher on the hills and I ended up dropping him with 60km to go and did the last stretch on my own."

Seven minutes sounds like a long enough gap to win a race, but with a bunch – or peleton as it's sometimes known – containing as many as 150 riders working together, more often than not the lone man is reeled back shortly before the finish line. However, the 2009 British Road Race champion managed to stay away using his experience of riding alone for those lonely final kilometres to claim the yellow jersey.

"It was still a long way to go so it was just a case of focusing on riding my bike and it then becomes more like training," House said. "It wasn't until with 25km to go and a six-minute gap that I thought I could do it and I upped the pace a bit.

"It's certainly given me a boost with [the win] coming so early in the season and helps justify my training this winter which I took a bit of stick over, as I spent some time riding on my own in Texas.

"[The Tour of South Africa] is definitely up there with them. I've won the Tour of Tasmania before and a couple of other similar races, but in the context of when it was in the year and the way we won it; riding from start to finish in the yellow jersey was most rewarding."

TEAM EFFORT: The yellow jersey is protected by Kristian House's Rapha Condor Sharp team-mates (in front and behind) during last week's Tour of South Africa

Winning the first race of the year has understandably given House a degree of confidence about a season ahead that will again be dominated by the one thing that has eluded him so far in the five years he has been road racing in Europe; a stage win at the Tour of Britain.

It will be a tough call, with House's Rapha team up against the big-spending teams such as Sky, Mark Cavendish's HTC-Highroad and Saxo Bank-SunGuard, but with a tour win behind him, victory on British soil would be the icing on the cake.

"Getting a stage of the Tour of Britain has been a goal for a long time now, hopefully the racing will be a bit different this year," he said. "But winning the national jersey is another goal, as is the Tour of Japan and Normandie."

• ***House returned to the saddle on Saturday in a one-day race in Singapore. For details of the race, visit our website, www.kentsport.co.uk.***

Green light for eco-friendly series at Brands

BRANDS Hatch has hosted all manner of race series throughout its history, but one new addition to this year's calendar promises to be truly groundbreaking, ***writes David Pritchard.***

The EV Cup will be the world's first motorsport championship based around zero emission electric cars when it officially launches later this year.

In a world of soaring petrol prices the attraction of electric cars becomes ever-more obvious, but problems over the range and a lack of power have hindered developments in the past.

Now rapidly advancing battery technology has solved many of the problems and the EV Cup is provisionally scheduled to begin in August, visiting Brands in November.

Grahame Butterworth, EV Cup's race director, believes it is nothing short of the future of motorsport.

He said: "We are clearly on a very fast learning curve and there's a lot of development happening all the time. I think there will be some very interesting racing and clearly electric cars are here to stay."

The series will feature two main classes, plus one for prototypes. The most eye-catching is the iRacer, which is due to have a top speed, electronically limited, of 115 miles per hour.

MEAN GREEN MACHINE: Our man David Pritchard is taken for a ride in an electric car

With the sportscar still in development, I was driven round Brands at the recent season launch in the EV Cup's other incarnation – the THINK City.

Alongside all the other racing cars hurtling round Brands at the launch day, the hatchback looked out of place even before it was switched on. A production car made in Norway, even with the advertising stickers on the bodywork and a roll cage on the inside, it still looks more suitable for the school run rather than as a racer.

It was still recharging, literally plugged in to a socket in the garage, when I gingerly got into the passenger seat. With it switched on the first thing to note was the noise, or lack of.

Butterworth, my chauffeur for the next few minutes, said the championship is looking into playing music at the start of races to make up for the underwhelming sound of dozens of milk floats flooring it off the line.

Despite the way it looked and sounded, the THINK City had impressive acceleration and appeared to handle like a scaled-up go-kart. Only on the straights, when the top speed was reached quickly, did it become obvious you were in something stretching the bounds of existing technology.

The early races this year may not be much to look at, but the rate of development suggests electric motorsport could be a boom area in the next few years. The importance of the EV Cup as a trailblazer for the rest to follow, with innovation trickling down to mainstream production cars, should therefore not be underestimated.

Their biggest immediate problem could be deciding which music to play at the start.

Another tale of losses expected in club accounts

LIGHT RELIEF: Kent hope to boost attendances with the introduction of floodlit cricket matches

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT'S financial results will again make for grim reading when they are sent out to the county's membership early next week, with operating losses set to be slightly less than £500,000.

A source revealed that the financial results to October 31, 2010, would be "awfully less" than the previous year's £802,452, and while the figure, believed to be between £400,000 and £500,000, is still cause for concern, it is a marked improvement.

Profit

The accounts are also expected to show a profit of more than £4 million which is down to the sale of land at the club's St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury, which it's hoped will leave the county in a "relatively stable position moving forward", according to a club insider.

The trading losses from 2009 were swelled by the two pop concerts at St Lawrence, which saw the club lose more than £190,000, and while there is not expected to be any substantial losses of that ilk in the 2010 accounts, the football World Cup and a drop in attendances for Twenty20 cricket had an impact.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

Operating deficit of nearly £500,000 cause for concern even though sale of land leaves club with profit of £4m

Despite a drop in crowds for the 20-over game, Kent bosses are keen to see the same number of fixtures in the 2012 fixture list, and will oppose any plans to reduce that figure when a gathering of cricket chiefs reconvene later this month.

If the number of Friends Provident t20 games is reduced to 10 from next season, it would prove a major blow to Kent. The county are hoping to maximise revenue this season with the introduction of floodlit cricket at St Lawrence, but with fewer t20 games from next summer, and with London hosting the Olympics, it could prove hugely damaging.

A source said: "We want to see t20 as it is, if it were to drop it would hit our revenue dramatically. We've spent a small fortune on getting floodlights so it would be a blow to find out we could not use them as much as we had hoped."

Kent show will go on, vows boxing promoter

PROMOTER Mark Roe is refusing to panic despite the uncertainty surrounding the long-awaited Kent boxing show at Medway Park.

The show is due to take place in less than two weeks' time, on March 18, but Roe has yet to secure opponents for several fighters, including Chatham heavyweight Tom Dallas, who will top the bill.

Having seen the show postponed three times last year after organisational and licensing difficulties, Roe is under pressure to deliver at the fourth attempt, but insists there will be no last-minute hitches this time.

"A couple of bouts have fallen out and I'll have to remake them, but I'm not panicking at this stage," he said. "We've had two or three people pull out on us so we'll have to up our game, so to speak.

"At this stage, there's no-one outside the top-10 [Dallas] could face and those fighters inside the top-10 want far too much money.

"There is no-one in Britain for us because Tom is one of the biggest punchers in the heavyweight division, so we're possibly looking at bringing in overseas fighters."

Roe accompanied Dallas to Poland this week after the 25-year-old was invited to spar with Albert Sosnowski, ranked inside the world's top-20 heavyweights.

A crowd of up to 1,500 is expected at Medway Park for the show and Roe has promised there will still be eight bouts on the bill, despite Swanley welterweight Martin Welsh pulling out of the event on Wednesday.

Among the other Kent fighters on the bill are Sheerness welterweight Gavin Tait, Ramsgate brothers Scott and Vinny Woolford and light heavyweight Dan Woodgate, from Margate.

Picture: ADY KERRY

TOP OF THE BILL: But an opponent has yet to be found for fighter Tom Dallas

Trials herald several potentials for county

FIVE promising players have been invited to pre-season at Kent after impressing at a public trial last week.

Three seam bowlers, a leg-spinner and a batsman showed enough promise to be called back to outdoor training, which begins at St Lawrence on March 11.

More than 30 players were invited to a trial at the club's indoor training centre last Sunday, where the county's coaching staff put them through their paces in a bid to unearth any budding talent.

Several players previously involved in the county's system also trialled, although Simon Willis, the club's high performance director, wouldn't reveal who has been invited to training on the St Lawrence pitch later this month.

He did say that of those called back, some would be playing university cricket this summer, while others could be involved with the Unicorns side, and that the trial day was a worthwhile exercise.

"We've invited four or five back to look at on the grass in pre-season," he said. "There were various skills and abilities on show, but was a worthile exercise that we intend to do again in the future. We've done it before, but not made it as public, but this time we put it round Europe to branch it out. I suppose in some ways it was a bit X Factor-ish but it was good and part of a process to unearth any talent out there."

If the triallists, who are aged under 20, are successful they will be invited to play for the club's second-team this summer.

They will be joined at pre-season by fellow triallist Neil Saker, the former Surrey seamer, who will be hoping to impress and earn himself a county contract.

Picture: ADY KERRY

SEARCH: Kent coach Simon Willis is on the lookout for potential new signings

Fleet chief says player exodus is unavoidable

Sonsara's forecast grim news for boss Daish

By STEVE TERVET

EBBSFLEET United chairman Phil Sonsara has admitted there is "not a hope in hell" of manager Liam Daish keeping his playing squad together beyond the end of this season.

For the last two seasons, Daish has seen his playing budget slashed as a result of decreasing membership renewals for the MyFootballClub website, which owns the north Kent club.

Having pulled together a squad virtually from scratch last summer, Daish has got the Fleet knocking on the door of promotion back to Conference Premier, 12 months after relegation from the same division.

Now, though, with Sonsara on the verge of finalising budget figures for the 2011-12 season, it looks as though Ebbsfleet will once again be caught in the vicious cycle which has plagued them so much in recent times.

"I want to be in a different situation [to last year]," said Sonsara. "Before the end of the month, I want to have tied Liam down in terms of the playing and management budget. I'd love the [membership] numbers to be 2,500, but they were around 1,700 at the end of February.

"They're a good bunch of players, they've enjoyed playing here this season and I think a number are ready to step up to bigger clubs. Every smaller football club is subject to that because there's a possibility the players could be offered more than what they're on here. In all honesty, are we going to keep the whole team? Not a hope in hell."

Sonsara's forecast may be realistic but it is unlikely to cheer many at Stonebridge Road. Earlier in the week, Daish reiterated his burning desire to keep his talented group of players together and buck the trend of having to build a new squad annually.

"We've got a good side here, considering what happened in the summer," he said. "I'd like to keep the side; that might be out of my hands, but you can't keep producing teams. This is a good side, the right age, a close-knit bunch, so I'd be very disappointed if they can't be kept together.

"If I haven't got a chance of keeping them now, second in the league, gates still up, when am I going to have a chance?"

Daish's own future has yet to be settled, with his contract expiring at the end of the season. Should the Fleet achieve promotion from Conference South, Sonsara has drafted a larger budget plan, incorporating the greater sponsorship revenue Conference Premier status would bring.

"I have some fine-tuning to do, but I want it done by the end of this month," Sonsara said. "I'm not sure which way to go yet. We either determine a figure for Liam in terms of his pay or we say 'here's a total pot for the players and management."

WARNING: Phil Sonsara (right) says Liam Daish will lose players when the season ends

Pictures: DAVE PLUMB

Gills teen urged to be less of a Payne

STEFAN Payne has been warned his discipline must improve if he is to have any hope of breaking into the Gillingham first-team.

The 19-year-old, who is midway through a one-month loan spell at Braintree Town, was sent off for violent conduct during Monday's goalless draw at Chelmsford City.

Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler watched from the stands as Payne was dismissed for catching Sami El-Abd in the face with a stray arm, and was quick to rebuke the striker the following day.

"I'm disappointed in him, I've got to say," he said. "He knows I'm disappointed, I had him in the office and had a chat with him. He's a young lad and he needs to learn because there was no need for him to do what he did.

"He got a hat-trick [against Basingstoke] the week before, so that's good for his confidence, but I certainly don't like to see what he did the other night, he knows he can't do that."

Since arriving at Priestfield on a free transfer last summer, Payne has started only one competitive game, but Hessenthaler insisted the former Sutton United front-man remained part of his plans.

Picture: ADY KERRY

RED CARD: Stefan Payne was sent off against Chelmsford

He said: "He's got a good chance because if he goes there and scores goals, that's something we're not doing enough. We've done it for a reason, to get him games, and hopefully he'll come back and push his way into our squad."

GUTSY: Liam Camier in World Superbikes action at Phillip Island

Camier's brave display

LEON Camier got the new motorsport season under way last weekend with a gutsy performance at the first round of the World Superbike Championship in Australia.

The Ashford rider was struck down with glandular fever and his testing time was severely limited, but he still managed to emerge from Phillip Island 12th in the standings.

Having finished 13th in race one, Camier battled his way through the field from 16th to sixth in the weekend's second race, despite his obvious discomfort.

"I'm honestly shocked by the results, especially the second race," he said. "I have never felt so ill and wasn't even sure if I'd be able to finish, so to come away just outside the top-10 of the championship isn't so bad."

Among the county's other racers gearing up for the new season is Phil Quaife, who this week secured a deal to compete in the Pro-Am class of the Le Mans Series (LMS) with CRS Racing.

Adrian Quaife-Hobbs has also mapped out his plans for the 2011 season after re-signing for Manor Racing in the GP3 series.

The Tunbridge Wells racer finished 15th in the Formula 1 support championship last season and will spend seven days testing before heading to the first round at Istanbul in May.

However, Goudhurst's Jake Hill is still looking to raise the £80,000 needed for him to compete in the Ginetta GT Supercup.

Hill, 17, must raise the money through sponsorship deals before the championship starts at Brands Hatch in four weeks' time.

Bid for Gills match tribute for 'Buster'

FOOTBALL: The Gillingham Independent Supporters Club (GISC) has appealed to former players to appear in a memorial game for Bill 'Buster' Collins on May 1.

Collins, who died last year aged 90, played for the club before going on to serve as reserve-team boss, head of youth, first-team trainer, and kitman.

The memorial game would take place at the 442 Club in Gillingham, kicking off at 4.30pm, with Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler managing 'Hessy's XI' against a Gillingham legends team.

Anyone interested should contact GISC secretary Neil Klee on 01634 723659 or neil181247@gmail.com by 7pm on Friday, March 11.

Tulloch misses out on a senior medal

GYMNASTICS: Maidstone gymnast Courtney Tulloch narrowly missed out on a senior medal at last weekend's English Championships in Stoke-on-Trent.

The 15-year-old was edged into fourth place on the rings, his specialist piece, en route to an overall ninth-placed finish in the all-around standings.

Tulloch trains at Pegasus Gymnastics Club in Bearsted and his club-mate, James Hall, finished the competition in a respectable 16th place at the event. Hall's highlight was coming 11th on the pommel, where he finished higher than Tulloch.

Picture: ADY KERRY

Kent stars to coach kids at Easter course

CRICKET: Youngsters will have the chance to be coached by three Kent players by attending a series of Easter courses at the club's Academy at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury.

Skipper Rob Key will lead a batting masterclass on April 19, with Simon Cook coaching fast bowlers the following day, and Geraint Jones (pictured) supervising aspiring wicket-keepers on April 21.

All the courses, designed by Kent first-team assistant coach Phil Relf, cost £60. For more information and booking details, contact ross.franklin.kent@ecb.co.uk or phone 01227 473605.

For all the latest sports news, as well as match reports and reaction to the weekend's games, go to www.kentsport.co.uk

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March 2011

Kent's Finest Properties

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The country mansion that could be yours **2-3**

Residential
The most wonderful homes you'll ever see
4-24

New homes
Tour the county's best new-builds
25-27

PULL-OUT SUPPLEMENT

WELCOME to the first edition of Kent's Finest Properties, the monthly guide that brings you a selection of the most exclusive residential and new-home properties for sale in the county.

This specialist guide also includes some of Kent's top retail businesses bringing their expertise and range of products to enhance any prestigious home.

With more than 40 properties to view, we hope you enjoy this new publication.

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Country house is a class apart

STOURMOUTH House is a beautiful Grade II-listed country house that has been lovingly restored.

The property is on the outskirts of the attractive village of Stourmouth. The nearby village of Preston (a mile away) has a range of facilities including shops, pub and primary school.

Larger Wingham (three miles distant) has an excellent range of shops, inns and restaurants, while the cathedral city of Canterbury is an exceptional shopping centre and has cultural facilities and an excellent range of state and independent schools.

Stourmouth House's stunning Georgian façade fronts a much older property, thought to be a medieval timber-framed farmhouse.

The property has been renovated by the current owners and finished with great thought and sympathy to its architectural style, creating a feeling of understated elegance.

The proportions of the façade allow for wonderful large sash windows which flood the rooms to the front of the house with light.

A wide-panelled front door leads into a handsome reception hall with a fantastic York stone floor.

An open fireplace with wood-burning stove is to one side and to the back an elegant staircase with ornate spindles rises to the first floor.

The principal reception rooms are to either side of the hall. The drawing room is to the left and is a relaxed and elegant room with an open fireplace.

Agent: Strutt & Parker
01227 451123
www.struttandparker.com

See page 8 for full details.

NEXT ISSUE OUT APRIL 2011

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The region's best choice

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Knowle House, Mayfield, East Sussex **£1,450,000**

KNOWLE House enjoys a delightful setting in a quiet private road on the fringe of the picturesque village of Mayfield.

It is an attractive substantial family house built in 1929 and has attractive elevations of brick and stone, partially relieved by tile-hanging under a pitched tiled roof.

The house is within established gardens of about one acre and has planning permission for further extension.

Agent: Knight Frank
01892 515035
www.knightfrank.com

Temptye Farmhouse, Worth **£475,000**

MILES & Barr is delighted to bring to the market Temptye Farmhouse.

In the rural setting of Worth, between Deal and Sandwich, this detached period home, which is priced at £475,000, boasts a 30ft sitting room, 24ft kitchen/diner, TV room/bedroom four, office/bedroom five, utility room and cloakroom on the ground floor.

Upstairs there are three further double bedrooms with a master en-suite, family bathroom and access to a fully-boarded loft currently being used as a play room.

The lawned gardens surround the property, with mature planting including grape vines, fig trees and fruit trees.

There are colour-washed elevations and a double-catslide Kent peg-tile roof.

Beautiful farmland views complete the package and viewing is a must to appreciate all on offer.

Agent: Miles & Barr, Deal
01304 800555
www.milesandbarr.co.uk

Kentish Gardens, Royal Tunbridge Wells **£750,000**

KENTISH Gardens is an exclusive collection of modern homes in the historic spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

It has been designed to offer something unique: inspiring architecture, beautiful natural surroundings and the highest-quality finishings.

Sitting behind secure electric gates and surrounded by woodlands, including a woodland walk and water features, these stylish new homes epitomise modern living.

The striking exterior design gives each property private external spaces.

The interiors are no less impressive with a specification and a quality of finish you would expect with homes of this calibre: feature kitchens, the latest in home audio-visual technology and exquisite bathroom fittings.

Agent: Connells, Tunbridge Wells
01892 547966
www.connells.co.uk

Close to stunning countryside

Tye House, Tunbridge Wells

THIS is a delightful family house on a substantial plot, enjoying superb views and situated in a highly desirable private park

Tye House occupies probably one of the best positions of any house in Nevill Court. Its setting affords views over the delightful gardens and stunning countryside beyond.

Tunbridge Wells train station is about a mile away and London Charing Cross can be reached in some 50 minutes.

Tunbridge Wells offers a wide variety of shops; boutiques and specialist shops, cultural amenities including an arts centre and theatre; and many restaurants.

Schooling in the area is well served in both the private and state sectors.

Private schools include the renowned Holmewood House Preparatory School for Boys and Girls at Langton Green and Kent College at Pembury.

Farther afield, public schools are at Sevenoaks and Tonbridge, while Tunbridge Wells still has grammar schools.

Leisure activities in the area include riding and walking in the surrounding countryside, golf at a number of golf courses including The Nevill, Tunbridge Wells and The Sussex National at Uckfield. There is sailing at Bewl Water and on the Kent and Sussex coasts.

Tye House is a substantial family property, built in the early 1930s and having elevations of brick, timber and cement rendered infills under a pitched tiled roof.

The present owners have lived at Tye House for almost 30 years and it is a wonderful family house. The accommodation is light and extremely well proportioned, and beautifully presented.

The Tudor style gives the house suitable character. Despite its size and great condition, the property still presents further opportunities for improvement or enlargement, subject to the usual consents being obtained.

Features of the property include: an attractive hall; stunning drawing room with attractive fireplace; windows to three aspects; and an attractive dining room with superb views and a door on to the terrace.

There is a beautifully-fitted kitchen/breakfast room with Corian working surfaces, an extensive range of cupboards and drawers, integrated appliances, island unit, space for a breakfast table and windows to two aspects.

In addition there is a large lobby with walk-in storage cupboard; a boiler room; a study; and a music room with windows to two aspects and well positioned to make the most of the most stunning of views.

On the first floor is an attractive landing; a master bedroom with windows to three aspects, built-in wardrobe cupboards and an en-suite shower room; a guest room with built-in wardrobe cupboards with windows to two aspects; two further bedrooms; two further bathrooms; and a shower room (one bathroom en suite to the guest room).

The property has an impressive in-and-out driveway with electric gates, tarmac drive, extensive parking, two double garages and a workshop.

The gardens are a distinctive feature of the house and principally laid to lawn, interspersed with mature shrubs and trees – in all about 1.75 acres.

Tye House is priced at £2,850,000.

Agent: Knight Frank
01892 515035
www.knightfrank.com

KnightFrank.co.uk

Fantastic pool complex

The Blue House, Cross-in-Hand, East Sussex

THIS is an exceptional family house with secondary accommodation, a fabulous pool complex, pretty gardens, woodland and paddocks

Mayfield is four miles away, Heathfield three miles distant, and Tunbridge Wells 14 miles away.

The Blue House occupies a stunning setting, within the exclusive Isenhurst Estate at Cross-in-Hand.

The gated estate with its long driveway flanked by woodland (of which the buyer will own a share) is in a quiet yet accessible setting.

In Cross-in-Hand there is a tennis club and the Heathfield and Waldron Rugby Club.

The pretty village of Mayfield and the country town of Heathfield are both easily accessible and offer a range of shops and amenities.

The larger centre of Tunbridge Wells has a wide range of specialist shops and boutiques, a theatre and an art centre.

The area is renowned for the quality of schools in both the private and state sectors.

Leisure activities in the area include riding and walking in the surrounding countryside, golf and sailing.

The Blue House was built by Millwood Designer Homes about nine years ago.

The owners have very much 'bespoked' the house, and although the original concept is by Millwood,

the owners are responsible for much of the style/design changes, which make this an exceptional house.

The elevations are of brick, with clay-hung tiles, further enhanced with woodwork, windows and gabling in blue and a pitched tiled roof.

Features of the property include an entrance porch; an impressive entrance hall with central staircase and galleried landing; drawing room with lovely double aspect; two sets of French doors opening on to the terrace; and an attractive stone fireplace.

Double doors from the drawing room lead to the family room with square bay window.

There is a kitchen/breakfast room with a lovely double aspect, plenty of working surfaces, cupboards below, walk-in larder and wood-burning stove.

The terrace study features bookshelves and a wood-burning stove.

The dining room has a bay window, fireplace and shelving.

On the first floor the master bedroom has a walk-in dressing room and a spacious en-suite bathroom.

A staircase leads from the bedroom to the second floor, which could be used as a private sitting room/cinema room, or alternatively another bedroom, if required.

The guest bedroom has an en-suite shower room and an attractive balcony, which affords amazing views.

The other bedrooms are all light and extremely well proportioned

Next to the house is the substantial garage/pool complex, with a first-floor flat.

The property has a triple garage with remote-controlled doors.

There is a single casement door to one side of the garage which leads up to the staff flat, with a sitting room, kitchen, utility room, bedroom and bathroom.

The pool complex is luxurious and benefits from double-aspect folding doors to one end which afford views of the garden with woodland beyond. Phyllite tiles surround the pool, which has an electrically-operated 'walk-on' type cover.

There is a plant room and 'His and Hers' changing rooms with showers and WCs.

Behind the pool complex and house is a manicured area of lawn, planted with pleached hornbeams, flower and shrub borders.

A gate leads beyond the formal garden to a lovely woodland walk.

A stream meanders through the garden, and there are bridges crossing it.

There is a paddock, which could be subdivided into three or four smaller paddocks, while there is ample room for stables – in all, about 15 acres and a further shared five acres.

Viewings are strictly by prior appointment through the owners' sole agents. The Blue House is priced at £2,500,000.

Agent: Knight Frank
01892 515035
www.knightfrank.com

KnightFrank.co.uk

History back to Domesday Book

Tiffenden Manor, near Tenterden

TIFFENDEN Manor is a charming and well-equipped Grade-II listed country house in a quiet rural location.

It is claimed that the estate near Tenterden has been continuously farmed for more than 1,000 years and is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The ground floor consists of a series of reception rooms displaying period features with exposed beams and a beautiful wood parquet floor.

The family room sits to one end of the house and has double doors leading to the garden.

The drawing room has a door leading to the rear of the house.

The kitchen/breakfast room has an Aga, and there is a utility room.

There are two separate staircases to the first floor where there is a master bedroom suite, guest bedroom and bathroom and a further two bedrooms with a shared bathroom.

On the second floor are a further two bedrooms.

The property sits in about 127 acres, and there are numerous outbuildings, including a two-bay garage and adjoining stable block.

The front of the house is flanked by areas of lawn and specimen trees.

To the rear is a beautiful area of garden with lawns surrounded by mixed shrubs and flower beds. To one side is a swimming pool with pool house, and also a hard tennis court

Tiffenden Manor is situated about half a mile south of the village of High Halden and is three miles from the market town of Tenterden.

Ashford to the east and Royal Tunbridge Wells to the west offer a more comprehensive range of shopping, restaurants and cultural facilities.

Tiffenden Manor is on the market for £1,950,000.

Agent: Knight Frank
01892 515035
www.knightfrank.com

KnightFrank.co.uk

Influenced by the arts

Forest Ridge House, Chuck Hatch

FOREST Ridge House is an attractive and substantial family house influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement.

It has elevations of brick including attractive herringbone insets and timber-framing under a pitched tiled roof.

The house in Chuck Hatch, East Sussex, has good ceiling heights and light and well-proportioned accommodation.

Many of the rooms enjoy views over the pretty ornamental gardens and paddock as well as the woodland beyond.

Features of the property include a drawing room with dining area, family room with patio doors leading on to the terrace, and a well-appointed kitchen/breakfast room with large picture windows.

There is also a television room, guest bedroom with en suite bathroom, and workshop/store and integral garage with separate WC.

On the first floor the master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom, and there are three further bedrooms.

The property is approached by an impressive driveway, and there are many useful outbuildings including a detached brick-built garage.

There are also ornamental gardens with brick paved paths dispersed with mature trees and shrubs, and an attractive field and paddock bordered by woodland with access to small stream.

Forest Ridge House is on the edge of Ashdown Forest and the neighbouring village of Hartfield has pubs and a local shop.

The larger towns of East Grinstead and Royal Tunbridge Wells offer a range of shopping, recreational and cultural amenities, as well as mainline stations.

Forest Ridge House is on the market for £1,500,000.

Agent: Knight Frank
01892 515035
www.knightfrank.com

KnightFrank.co.uk

Substantial family house

Knowle House, Mayfield

KNOWLE House enjoys a delightful setting in a quiet private road on the fringe of the picturesque village of Mayfield.

It is an attractive substantial family house built in 1929 and has attractive elevations of brick and stone, partially relieved by tile-hanging under a pitched tiled roof.

The house is within established gardens of about one acre and has planning permission for further extension.

The property has light and well-proportioned accommodation, with features of the period including fireplaces, picture rails and cornicing.

On the ground floor there is an attractive sitting room with windows to three aspects and a door opening on to the garden.

There is a drawing room/dining room and kitchen/breakfast room.

Upstairs the main bedroom has windows to three aspects, and there are four/five further bedrooms.

There is a family bathroom and separate shower room.

The property has a gravelled driveway, with herbaceous flower and shrub borders.

There is a large detached three-bay garage block with adjoining garden store/workshop.

The gardens surround the house on three sides, and there are vast expanses of lawns interspersed with young and mature trees, an attractive rose arbour and mature Scots pines backing on to open countryside.

The village of Mayfield in East Sussex offers a good range of shopping and amenities, serving all the usual day-to-day needs.

Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre offers many shopping and leisure facilities, as well as a mainline station serving London Charing Cross and Cannon Street.

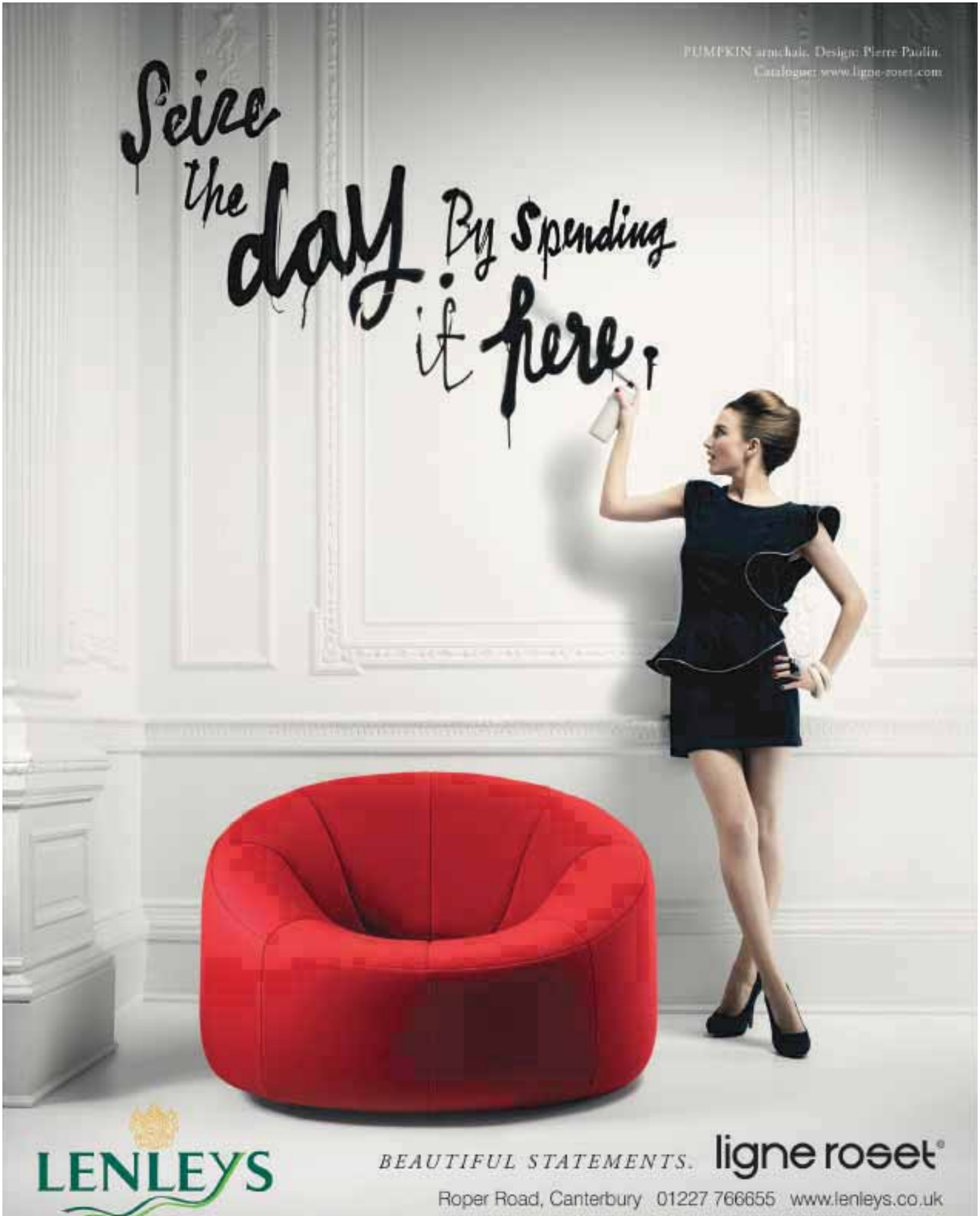
A similar service is available at both Frant and Wadhurst.

The A267 links with the A21, providing access to the M25 with connections to London, Gatwick, Stansted and Heathrow airports, the Channel Tunnel, ferry ports and the international Eurostar station at Ashford.

Knowle House is on the market for £1,450,000.

Agent: Knight Frank
01892 515035
www.knightfrank.com

KnightFrank.co.uk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Close to beautiful walks

Drayswood, Stone Cross

IF you're looking for a spectacular detached residence with lots of character in a sought-after village location, then Drayswood in Stone Cross, Mersham, could be the ideal home for you.

The residential sales manager of Connells in Ashford, Rob Coleman, said: "We are delighted to be marketing this exceptional property, which is located about half a mile from the picturesque village of Mersham.

"The village has a small range of amenities and the area boasts some beautiful walks across open countryside.

"With four acres of land including a two-acre paddock with stable blocks, this property would be ideal for equestrians."

The house is set back from the road and is sheltered by a large hedgerow. Through electric gates the winding gravel drive leads up to the house where there is parking and a turning area.

This significant property has retained many of its original features including beautiful fireplaces, bay windows and high ceilings.

Accommodation is spaced over three storeys and comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, utility room, boot room, a master bedroom with en-suite, guest bedroom with en-suite, four further bedrooms and two family bathrooms.

The three-bedroom annexe has a lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room and a shower room, as well as its own garage.

Both properties have ample parking and benefit from the mature gardens that provide a delightful backdrop to this stunning country retreat.

The gardens have a swimming pool, vegetable patches, an orchard, a chicken run, duck pond, koi carp pond and lawned areas. There is also a two-acre paddock with a triple stabling block as well as sheds, workshops and stores.

Drayswood is priced at £1,300,000.

Agent: Connells Ashford
01233 622206
www.connells.co.uk

Connells

Wonderful listed house

Stourmouth House, near Canterbury

STOURMOUTH House is a beautiful Grade II-listed country house that has been lovingly restored.

The property is on the outskirts of the attractive village of Stourmouth. The nearby village of Preston (a mile away) has a range of facilities including shops, pub and primary school.

Larger Wingham (three miles distant) has an excellent range of shops, inns and restaurants, while the cathedral city of Canterbury is an exceptional shopping centre and has cultural facilities and an excellent range of state and independent schools.

Stourmouth House's stunning Georgian façade fronts a much older property, thought to be a medieval timber-framed farmhouse.

The property has been renovated by the current owners and finished with great thought and sympathy to its architectural style, creating a feeling of understated elegance.

The proportions of the façade allow for wonderful large sash windows which flood the rooms to the front of the house with light.

A wide-panelled front door leads into a handsome reception hall with a fantastic York stone floor.

An open fireplace with wood-burning stove is to one side and to the back an elegant staircase with ornate spindles rises to the first floor.

The principal reception rooms are to either side of the hall. The drawing room is to the left and is a relaxed and elegant room with an open fireplace.

Across the hall is a lovely sitting room, again with an open fire and a pair of large sash windows with original shutters.

The kitchen is off the rear of the hall and divided into two areas, providing a main kitchen arranged around an Aga and a secondary kitchen with excellent workspace, a fitted hob, cooker and twin basins.

Both have been beautifully fitted with custom-made wooden furniture and there is a splendid original wooden sink and drainer.

Next to the kitchen is a good-sized breakfast room with an inglenook fireplace.

The master bedroom suite is to the south-west of the house and is a generous room with panelling to the walls, original shuttered sash windows and window seats beneath. Another panelled bedroom is at the other end of the house, again with original shutters and a fireplace, either side of which are deep fitted cupboards.

Bedrooms four and five sit to the back of the house and the accommodation on this floor is completed by the beautifully-fitted family bathroom.

A second staircase rises and divides to lead to two further bedrooms. The top floor comprises an open-plan bedroom and sitting area, along with a shower room.

Stourmouth House is approached over a long gravel drive bounded for the majority of its length by mature rhododendrons and azaleas. The front garden is dominated by a weeping willow tree and is well planted with other trees under-planted with shrubs and herbaceous plants giving year-round colour.

At the top of the drive is a garage and to the left is an area of lawn with a variety of apple and pear trees. There is a brick terrace immediately behind the house and a lawn stretches out beyond.

Stourmouth House has a guide price of £1,250,000.

Agent: Strutt & Parker
01227 451123
www.struttandparker.com

STRUTT & PARKER

Exceptional views

Birchetts Point, Ticehurst

BIRCHETTS Point is a single-storey home from the 1920s designed to make the best use of the exceptional views.

The property occupies a truly stunning position, set at the head of a peninsula surrounded by Bewl Water Nature Reserve.

It has elevations of painted white weatherboarding under a pitched tiled roof, and many rooms have dual aspect and enjoy views across the water and farmland.

The owners have carried out considerable modernisation, and the property does have potential for further redevelopment.

The accommodation includes entrance hall, drawing room, a contemporary fitted kitchen/dining room, utility room and study area.

The master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom, and there are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

There is a detached garage and and grounds of about 0.7 acre.

The nearby villages of Wadhurst and Ticehurst both have a good range of amenities, while Royal Tunbridge Wells has a comprehensive range of shopping, recreational and cultural amenities.

To view this property, which is priced at £1,250,000.

Agent: Knight Frank
01892 515035
www.knightfrank.com

KnightFrank.co.uk

Edwardian splendour in hamlet

Norton Charity, Hollingbourne

AN imposing detached Edwardian home in the hamlet of Broad Street, Hollingbourne, is being offered for sale by Your Move Premier.

This elegant property, which was built in about 1910, has accommodation comprising a reception hall, living room, sitting room/dining room, study, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and cloakroom/WC on the ground floor.

There are five bedrooms, a dressing room and family bathroom on the first floor.

The property is set in about 1.25 acres of grounds which are established and landscaped and mainly laid to lawn with a large vegetable area, many specimen trees and shrubs, a patio area and tennis court.

There is also a detached office building and garage.

The property benefits from oil-fired central heating.

Notably attractive features are the grounds and the secluded location of the property.

An early viewing is essential to appreciate its location and benefits that it has to offer. The property is offered for sale with no forward chain.

Norton Charity is priced at £900,000.

Agent: Your Move Premier, Mid-Kent
01622 738282
www.your-move.co.uk/premier

Premier

In unspoilt village location

Aylesham Farmhouse, Womenswold

AYLESHAM Farmhouse is a beautiful listed farmhouse with an excellent range of period and modern farm buildings, good grounds and paddocks.

It is in an unspoilt village location and adjoins open country to the rear with distant views.

Aylesham Farmhouse is a good-sized farmhouse with two reception rooms and four bedrooms.

A half-glazed door leads into the wonderful main reception room, a beautifully-proportioned room with a new oak floor and windows on three aspects, making it a very light and bright room.

One wall has exposed brickwork and there is an open fireplace housing a Fisher wood-burning stove with log storage to each side.

The dining room is an elegant room with good ceiling height and a Victorian-style open fireplace.

A door leads directly into the hand-made kitchen with distressed oak units and Corian work-surfaces over and a gas-fired Aga in an old inglenook fireplace.

Between the kitchen and the sitting room is a short passageway to a rear vestibule leading out into the garden. From here a door leads down to a useful cellar.

From the main sitting room a staircase leads to the first-floor landing.

The main bedroom is at the far end with an en-suite shower room with a natural brick wall and tiles.

Bedroom two also has an en-suite shower room, an exposed brick wall and a deep wardrobe.

Bedroom three is to the front, and bedroom four has a mezzanine with an original ladder leading up and windows overlooking the garden.

From the landing there is a staircase up to the roof space with masses of storage and which is mainly boarded.

The front garden has a lavender-lined brick path with a beech hedge, and there are lovely views of the church from here.

To the rear of the house is a good-sized terrace.

Other features are a sunken area between the house and the church with an ancient brick wall; a triple garage with stairs to storage over; a four-bay cart store; eight stables; and two barns of 275 square metres and 300 sq m respectively. There is a good-sized level paddock. In all there are about 3.8 acres.

There is a guide price of £850,000.

Agent: Strutt & Parker
01227 451123
www.struttandparker.com

STRUTT & PARKER

Distinctive village home

Haverbrack, Challock

AFTER 30 years of blissful occupation the owner of Haverbrack, in the rural setting of Challock, has decided now is the time to sell.

This distinctive village home with equestrian potential occupies an exceptionally pretty plot with southerly aspect extending to almost 2.5 acres and provides well-proportioned accommodation arranged over three floors.

The ground floor comprises an imposing reception hall with elegant staircase to first floor, principal reception room with inglenook fireplace, double aspect dining room, conservatory, study, fourth reception room with cloakroom and a kitchen/breakfast room with wine-chilling store, walk-in pantry and wood-burning stove.

On the first floor there is a double-aspect master suite with stunning views, luxury full en-suite bathroom; bedroom two is currently used as a dressing room.

There is a further bedroom on the first floor, split-level spacious bathroom and a separate WC.

On the second floor, bedrooms four and five both have superb views.

The property boasts a 2.5-acre plot with heated greenhouse, wood store, automatic gated entrance, double garage and circular turning area.

Challock is between the towns of Ashford, with its international passenger terminal and high-speed train to London (38 minutes to St Pancras), and Faversham.

Haverbrack has a guide price of £850,000-£950,000.

Agent: Connells, Park Farm, Ashford
01233 502020
www.connells.co.uk

Connells

Extensive private gardens

Applegarth House, St Michaels

APPLEGARTH House is a stunning country residence and provides spacious, well-appointed family accommodation and is set in private gardens of more than four-and-a-half acres.

Approached by an electric gated entrance and standing in a central position by a long driveway with turning circle and roundabout with water feature, the property enjoys attractive brick and tile-hung elevations under a tiled roof.

Internally, the flowing light, airy and modernised accommodation comprises four bedrooms, master en-suite, dressing room and shower room, luxury family bathroom, sitting room, study/bedroom four, stylish fitted kitchen/breakfast room, superb enclosed conservatory/family room and cloakroom, together with large imposing reception hall and galleried landing.

Applegarth House enjoys a double garage and ample parking, together with the feature private and secluded gardens, which are extensively laid to lawn with a small stable block and stocked lake.

The property is well positioned within a few minutes' drive of Tenterden town centre, which offers an array of shops including a Waitrose supermarket, banks, restaurants, bars, leisure facilities and schools.

For the commuter, the M20 and train stations at Pluckley (about 4.9 miles), Headcorn (about 5.2 miles) and Ashford International (about nine miles) are all within access.

Applegarth House has a guide price of £825,000.

Agent: Your Move Premier, Weald
01580 762241
www.your-move.co.uk/premier

Premier

Lodge your offers

Upton Lodge, Broadstairs

UPTON Lodge is a handsome Grade II-listed family home and, although little is known of its history, the earliest parts are thought to date from the 18th century.

It is a comfortable and practical home of immense character with generously-proportioned rooms.

The cosy interior is an Aladdin's Cave of period features with views to the beautifully tended, enclosed gardens through multi-paned cottage windows or leaded panes from the oldest part of the house.

The sitting room with decoratively-panelled, bleached pine walls is a refreshingly bright double-aspect room with an attractive fireplace and wood-burning stove. Across the inviting hallway, the dining room assumes a different character.

A warm, richly-decorated room with a beamed ceiling and working inglenook fireplace is the perfect setting for dinner parties, while guests' children can entertain themselves in the basement games room and playroom.

The kitchen is in a true farmhouse style, with a log-burning stove in an inglenook fireplace and ample space in the centre of the quarry-tiled floor for a large dining table.

There is a useful walk-in larder in addition to a comprehensive range of solid-oak cupboards and integrated appliances beneath extensive working surfaces.

Natural finish, stripped pine skirting boards, doors and door frames are to be found throughout the house, as are period-style brass light-switches and electrical sockets.

This home manages to bring together period features and the comforts of modern-day living in perfect harmony.

Wiring for wall-mounted televisions is thoughtfully hidden away within the plaster.

The bathrooms are modern and luxuriously appointed yet sympathetic to the character of the home.

Upton Lodge stands in about quarter of an acre of professionally-tended landscaped grounds and FAAC electronic gates open remotely on to an ample parking area and wide gravel driveway leading to a double garage.

The property is priced from £825,000.

Agent: Fine & Country, Canterbury
01227 479317
www.fineandcountry.co.uk

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Go Scouting for this cottage

The Cottage, Speldhurst Hill

THE Cottage in Speldhurst Hill is an enchanting detached period cottage that dates from the mid-1600s and is Grade-II listed.

It was formerly known as The Speldhurst Farm and was previously owned by the famous Baden-Powell family of Scouting fame.

The accommodation is arranged over three floors, has a cellar and includes many excellent features, including the following:

• Attractive brick, timbered and part tile-hung elevations with distinctive lattice windows and dormers and substantial chimneys.

• Internally, there are many period features including exposed timbers and beams in a number of rooms.

• The sitting room is a delightful room with a large mellowed stone inglenook with a metal canopy, bressemer with mantel shelf above and deep cupboard to one side.

• There are attractive outlooks to both front to the church and rear.

• The dining room has views to the front to the church and has many exposed beams with good ceiling height, an open fireplace with a gas coal-effect fire and an attractive alcove with seating.

• There are double doors to the excellent kitchen/breakfast room which has been bespoke-fitted by Great British Interiors with a range of cupboards, drawers and work surfaces in keeping with the style of the cottage.

• On the first floor the main bedroom is delightful and has a range of wardrobe cupboards and views of the church. There is a well-fitted family bathroom with a separate WC and, on the top floor, two further bedrooms both with vaulted ceilings and, off one, a bathroom that also has a separate WC.

• The cellars have been beautifully renovated with exposed brick walls and floor and original working well.

Outside the property is a brick and tiled detached garage that was originally the powerhouse for the manor house.

It has a cloakroom and workshop, a door to the garden and parking to the front.

The attractive cottage gardens include a good area of lawn with surrounding mature trees and shrubs and, by the house, pathways with trimmed hedges and shrub borders and a greenhouse.

At the rear are paved areas leading to the garage and parking.

This property is priced at £795,000.

Agent: Hamptons, Tunbridge Wells
01892 516611
www.hamptons.co.uk

Moor your family here

Moorings Firs Lane, Hollingbourne

HERE is a rare opportunity to buy an individual and elegant detached family home in a highly-sought-after semi-rural location on the outskirts of Hollingbourne and Bearsted.

Being offered for sale by Your Move Premier at Bearsted as sole selling agent, the stylishly presented accommodation includes entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, conservatory, dressing room and snooker room to the ground floor.

There is a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom/shower room to the first floor.

The property benefits from gas-fired central heating and double-glazing where stated.

It also has a detached double garage, together with a driveway offering ample off-road parking.

A particularly attractive feature is the landscaped grounds extending to about an acre.

An early viewing is essential to appreciate the benefits it has to offer and its semi-rural location with countryside views.

This property has a price of £775,000.

Agent: Your Move Premier, Mid-Kent
01622 738282
www.your-move.co.uk/premier

Why not spread a little love?

Little Love, Headcorn

LITTLE Love is a delightful country residence providing well-appointed family accommodation and set in secluded gardens and paddock extending to about two-and-a-half acres.

Approached by a gated entrance, this handsome home offers a blend of charm and character and is situated in a rural yet convenient location about one mile from Headcorn village centre.

The village has a range of shops and boutiques including Sainsbury's as well as inns, restaurants and a mainline station.

Little Love boasts three bedrooms with en-suite shower room to the master bedroom and luxury family bathroom on the first floor.

To the ground floor there is a large sitting room with fireplace and log-burning stove, separate dining room, conservatory, reception hall, study, kitchen/breakfast room, sun room, utility and cloakroom.

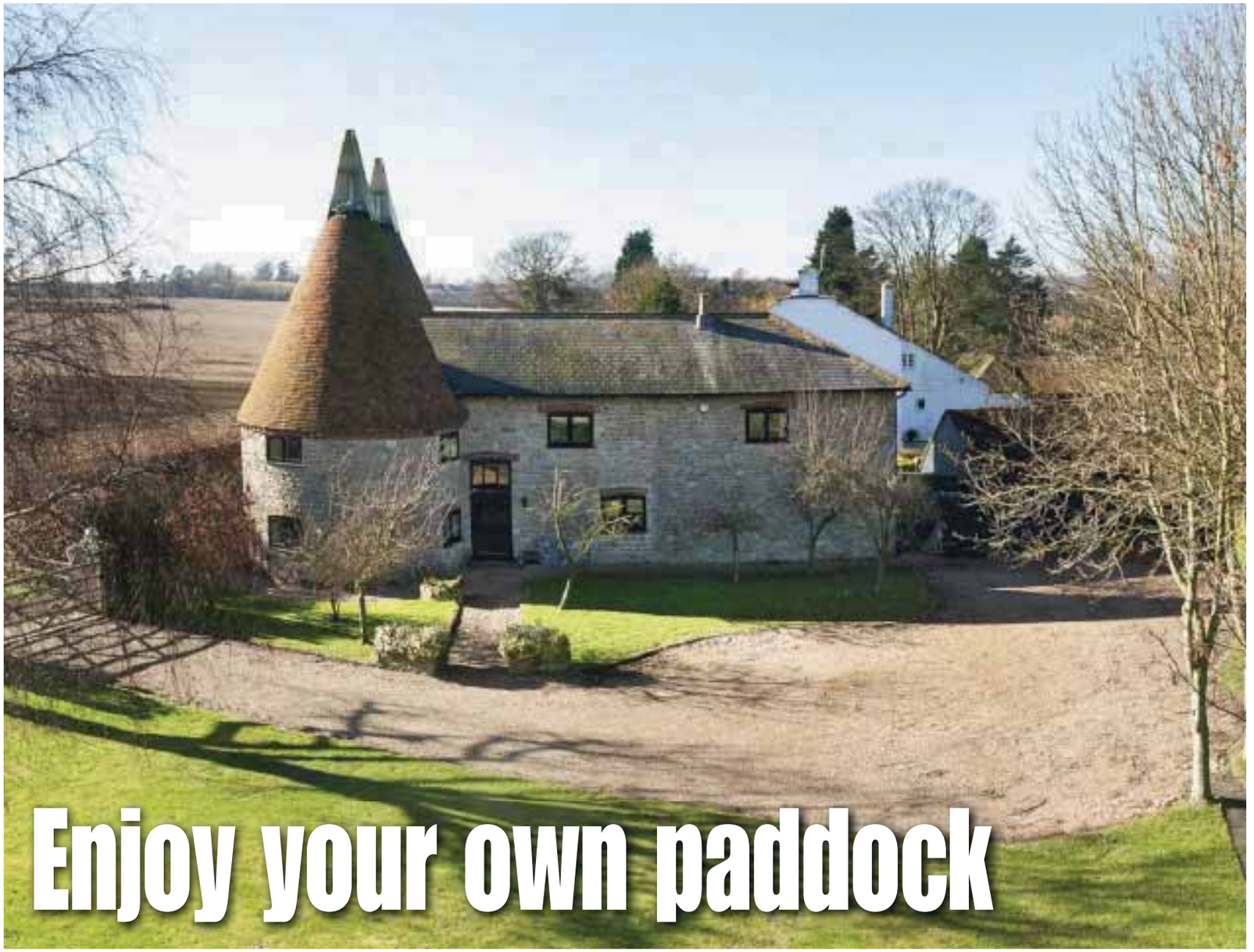
The accommodation is lavishly decorated and complemented by double-glazed leaded-light-style windows where stated and oil-fired central heating.

There is a summer house comprising bedroom, wet room, WC, kitchen and sitting room plus a pool house with retractable roof, hot tub and sauna all set within the formal gardens.

There is a level paddock and stable, in all about two-and-a-half acres.

Offers over £775,000.

Agent: Your Move Premier, Weald
01580 762241
www.your-move.co.uk/premier



Enjoy your own paddock

Oast House, Chart Sutton

HERE is a beautifully-appointed rural twin oast house with some 2,700 sq ft living area, set within its own gardens and paddock, totalling about one acre.

The property, which is priced at £775,000, is built of local ragstone and has four bedrooms, three reception rooms, two bathrooms and one cloakroom, plus a double-garage block.

Chart Sutton is well positioned, being close to the village of Sutton Valence. The area is well served with easy access to the motorway network.

Private and state schools, serving both the primary and secondary age groups, are nearby, as are mainline train stations.

Internally, the property offers a wonderful blend of sumptuous space coupled with the character that only an oast conversion can offer.

The two 17ft-diameter circular kilns accommodate the kitchen with a four-oven Aga and dining room on the ground floor, while the upper levels incorporate two of the four double bedrooms.

Two further large reception rooms are on the ground floor beyond the impressive entrance hall, and above them sits a stunning family bathroom, plus bedroom three, which has its own en-suite and bedroom four.

The property has a gas-fired central-heating system and quality double-glazing throughout.

The grounds, with far-ranging uninterrupted views, are arranged simply to the front, with flat lawns extending beyond a sweeping driveway towards a further enclosed paddock area.

To the rear, the oast has a secluded walled garden, incorporating a paved patio area that leads directly from both kitchen and main reception room.

This is an ideal setting for entertaining and alfresco dining.

Agent: Fine & Country, Cranbrook
01580 715000
www.fineandcountry.co.uk

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Former village store

Lovely setting on North Downs

The Barn, Molash

The Barn is on the North Downs in an area designated as of special landscape interest and outstanding natural beauty with a 13th-century church and village pub close by.

It is the largest of three former farmyard buildings originally belonging to the neighbouring 17-century farmhouse.

They were sympathetically restored and converted to high-quality character homes in 2007.

The Barn, at Molash, enjoys grounds of two-thirds of an acre – a safe environment for children and pets as it lies well back from the road in an attractive courtyard setting that is approached over a curving driveway leading to an open-barn-style double garage.

The spacious and luxuriously-appointed interior features a wealth of character – vaulted, beamed ceilings rise above a central suspended galleried landing over the centre of the main living area, which is bathed in natural light through lofty barn doors in the front and rear elevations.

This is a practical and comfortable home with a large family bathroom and en-suites to three of the four double bedrooms.

The main living room, measuring 50ft x 26ft, works exceptionally well as there are cleverly-designed areas that zone the kitchen from the dining area and the dining area from the lounge, which features a double-sided multi-fuel stove and oak floor.

The kitchen with a travertine stone floor is extensively equipped with bespoke furniture and integrated Smeg appliances; there is an adjacent breakfast recess and, off to one side, a well-equipped and useful utility/boot room with door to the outside and garage.

Chandler House, Cowden

CHANDLER House is a Grade-II listed cottage in Cowden, Edenbridge, that was once the village store.

It has colour-washed brick and weatherboarded and part-exposed timber elevations under a mixture of tiled and slate roofs.

The attached property has been converted to attractive family accommodation with many period features including inglenook-style fireplaces, exposed timbers and sympathetically-updated kitchen and bathrooms.

The property has the added advantage of a linked barn providing garaging and a mezzanine office, with potential for extension if required.

Its features include a reception/dining hall with broad inglenook fireplace and a drawing room with recessed fireplace with log-burning stove and bressumer beam.

The breakfast room has oak flooring and there is also a rear hall/boot room with a stable door to the garden and parking area.

The kitchen has attractive cream units and granite worksurfaces; old ornamental cast-iron range; space and point for cooker with built-in wine-cooler fridge; integrated dishwasher; and a fridge/freezer.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has low-glazed panelled doors to a south-facing balcony.

There are three further bedrooms, one with a fine Victorian fireplace.

The first bathroom has a roll-topped bath and a large walk-in tiled Douche shower, while the second bathroom has a modern suite with a Jacuzzi bath.

Behind the house, there is an attached barn built of weather-boarded elevations under a pitched roof, providing a garage and workshop and a first-floor office.

There is a walled rear garden with a lawn, shrub and flower borders and a stone-paved terrace.

This property is on the market for £725,000.

Agent: Jackson-Stops & Staff
Tunbridge Wells
01892 521700
www.jackson-stops.co.uk

Jackson-Stops & Staff

A pleasant ambient temperature is provided by under-floor heating downstairs and radiators throughout the first floor.

Here is an idyllic village lifestyle, yet so easy to travel to London. It takes 11 minutes to drive to Ashford International station and it's then 37 minutes by train to St Pancras.

The property is priced at £725,000.

Agent: Fine & Country, Canterbury
01227 479317
www.fineandcountry.co.uk

FINE & COUNTRY fineandcountry.com

Wonderful Channel views

Berkley, St Margaret's Bay

THIS is a very special house for a number of reasons. It enjoys an exquisite, secluded location in Granville Road, St Margaret's Bay, set amid a woodland landscape on a south-facing hillside with breathtaking views across the English Channel.

The scenery is outstanding, making this the perfect home for relaxing and entertaining friends.

The gardens are completely secluded and south-facing, so the balcony and wide terrace enjoy a sunny aspect.

The views out to sea are forever changing and on a clear day it is possible to see the French coast from Calais to Boulogne.

The interior is refreshingly different, so unusual, totally not what you would expect.

The designers obviously had tremendous vision – the style has an Italian flavour and the light and airy open-plan living space with its beautiful marble floors is impressive.

It is very well appointed and adorned with hardwood carvings and antique fittings, giving the home a unique character.

The property is exceptionally well appointed, with a great deal of attention to quality detail, as can be seen in the marble window-sills, wealth of hardwood joinery and marble-tiled bathrooms with restored antique fittings.

Windows to every aspect and French doors opening on to the south-easterly terrace flood natural daylight into the open-plan living areas.

St Margaret's Bay is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at the narrowest point of the Strait of Dover, where just 21 miles separate England and France.

This fine house commands superb views across one of the world's busiest seaways.

The surrounding cliffs and leas are National Trust land, interwoven with pathways and tracks across the cliff-tops.

This is a wonderful location for walking and the views over the surrounding countryside and sea are spectacular.

The property is priced at £690,000-£760,000.

Agent: Fine & Country, Canterbury
01227 479317
www.fineandcountry.co.uk

FINE & COUNTRY fineandcountry.com

Superb views

Clovelly, Egerton

CLOVELLY is a beautifully situated 1930s house with far-reaching views across its own land, together with adjacent farmyard with a mix of buildings with further potential.

The property is on the edge of Egerton, a sought-after village with a strong community atmosphere. It provides good facilities, including a post office, village store, primary school, church and public house.

Clovelly was built in 1937 but has been extended by the present owners, firstly in 1984 and then in 1991, and now provides comfortable accommodation over two floors.

Recent improvements to the house include double-glazed windows.

The front door leads into a hallway with bedroom one to the left; this room has a bay window and fitted wardrobe cupboards.

To the right is the sitting room which has a multi-fuel stove in the fire place and a further bay window. From the hall a door leads to the dining room, which has an open fireplace and storage cupboard.

The dining room leads through to the kitchen, which is fitted with a range of light-oak fronted cabinets and has a beautiful view from the window down the valley.

Back in the hallway there is a door to the family bathroom and a glazed door leads through to an inner hall with plenty of storage.

On the first floor, there is a spacious bedroom with two Velux windows on the north side.

There is also a small single bedroom, a cloakroom and steps down to a further lovely bright bedroom with a magnificent view over the property's own land.

In the garden are three timber garden sheds and a greenhouse, a south-facing patio and small pond.

A gateway leads to a pasture, which slopes up either side of a central valley with a stream.

The farmyard is accessed via a separate entrance and is surrounded by buildings, the largest of which is a brick structure with two block extensions incorporating a former cold store and two large rooms.

Attached to this is open-bay storage. A little to the north is a further small cold store, covered storage and enclosed storage.

On the south side is a picturesque building of stone with brick quoins beneath a clay-tiled roof with further open storage adjacent, and a concrete pre-fab garage with tin roof on the east side.

In all, there are about 18 acres.

There is a guide price of £675,000.

Agent: Strutt & Parker
01227 451123
www.struttandparker.com

STRUTT & PARKER

Exposed beams are a feature

The Quarries, Boughton Monchelsea

THIS fine stone cottage is believed to have 16th-century origins.

It has wonderful period character including exposed beams throughout.

Situated within a comfortable drive of the county town, train stations and the M20, this home will make an ideal base for those wishing to enjoy a country lifestyle while remaining within a commutable range of the capital.

The cottage, which has a guide price of £650,000, benefits from a modern configuration with three spacious and elegant reception rooms and four bedrooms arranged over the two upper floors.

The kitchen is particularly well appointed, with high-quality finishes of wood and granite.

Additionally the ground floor has a utility room and a further WC.

Externally, the property sits on a corner plot, with quiet lanes extending along two sides.

The grounds are predominantly laid to lawn, with a substantial double-garage block at the rear.

A further workshop adds practicality to the attractive gardens.

An additional plot is opposite the property and may be included within this sale – subject to negotiation.

This plot could be deemed suitable as further gardens or as a compact paddock.

The Quarries has historical significance, being the site of the ragstone quarry that provided the stone used to build many of the capital's finest buildings, including Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament.

The property itself is believed to have at one time been the house of the former quarry master.

The area of Boughton Monchelsea is well served with amenities such as schooling, shops and country pubs and restaurants all just minutes away.

Properties of this nature are rarely available and as such all prospective buyers should ensure their initial viewings are booked early.

Agent: Fine & Country, Cranbrook
01580 715000
www.fineandcountry.co.uk

FINE & COUNTRY

Modern home with rural charm

Ridge House, Royal Tunbridge Wells

SITUATED in the sought-after village of Speldhurst just outside Royal Tunbridge Wells, this four-bedroom detached property offers the perfect combination of town and country.

The beautiful home in Furzefield Avenue is arranged over three floors and includes an open-plan living area, fully-fitted kitchen and bedroom balconies with views across a large garden to the rural landscape beyond.

This is an ideal family home, and downstairs the open-plan, wooden-floored living area offers a stylish and flexible living space, which incorporates a large kitchen and dining area.

The living area looks out to the garden through large double-glazed concertina doors which extend to the full width of the ground floor.

Perfect for summer, these doors can open up the entire ground floor of the property to the garden.

In winter, the open fireplace with inset wood-burner is the perfect finishing touch to this delightful living space.

Upstairs, bedrooms two and three have adjoining balconies, both of which provide fantastic views of the property's large garden and the landscape beyond.

Two of the four bedrooms include en-suite bathrooms, and a family bathroom serves the remaining two rooms.

The master bedroom is on the second floor and enjoys further views of the rural landscape.

Speldhurst is just two-and-a-half miles from Tunbridge Wells with its rail links to London, fantastic shopping, the historic Pantiles and a range of great pubs and restaurants. The immediate village offers a good nursery and primary school, plus a gastro pub called the George and Dragon serving great food and traditional ales.

This property is priced at £645,000.

Agent: Connells, Tunbridge Wells
01892 547966
www.connells.co.uk

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Fine family house in historic village setting

The Mount, Sellindge

THIS superb and spacious detached house on Barrow Hill in the historic village of Sellindge has spectacular views and is believed to date back to the late 1800s.

The Mount is a wonderful four-bedroom property set in approximately five acres of gardens and land.

The house has been extended and tastefully decorated throughout and would make an ideal residence for a large family or those who want a spacious home in a peaceful, rural location.

On the ground floor there is a study, dining room and a fantastic lounge with an open stone fireplace, oak flooring and patio doors that open on to the garden.

The modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room includes a range of wall and base units, an electric oven, an electric hob, cooker hood, integrated dishwasher and TV and telephone points. The large and bright conservatory has tiled flooring and underfloor heating, so it can be enjoyed all-year round.

Other ground-floor accommodation includes a utility room, store room, boiler room and two cloakroom/WCs.

The first floor comprises four bedrooms and a family bathroom with a bath and separate shower cubicle.

The lovely master bedroom boasts a dressing room with shelving and hanging rails and an en-suite shower room.

The other three bedrooms come with built-in wardrobes.

The property has far-reaching countryside views of the North Downs and also comes with a four-bay barn that has been converted into an office and workshops, and a garage.

The residential sales manager at Connells in Ashford, Rob Coleman, said: "The Mount is a delightful property situated in a rural location between Ashford and Folkestone and is well located for access to the M20.

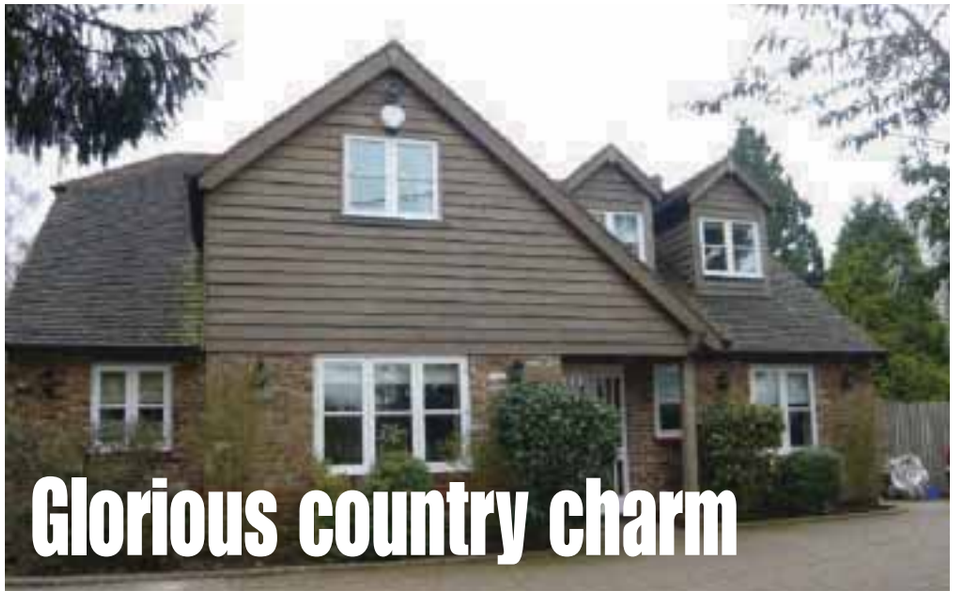
"The village has a few local services, and a wider range of amenities can be found in nearby Hythe or Ashford.

"I would strongly recommend those interested in The Mount to view the property to appreciate all it has to offer."

The Mount is priced at £625,000.

Agent: Connells, Ashford
01233 622206
www.connells.co.uk

Connells



Glorious country charm

Gable Lodge, Harrietsham

CONNELLS is delighted to present Gable Lodge, a beautiful seven-year-old home in a semi-rural location on the periphery of Harrietsham.

This charming home has been finished and maintained to a high standard and is designed to capture the true magic of a country property.

The ground floor consists of spacious lounge, a dining room opening to the garden, a family room and study.

The bespoke large country kitchen and utility room have been beautifully designed and reflect the rest of the property with a choice of light colour scheme throughout.

On the first floor there are four double bedrooms, two with en-suites, and a contemporary bathroom.

The garden sweeps from the rear of Gable Lodge to the side, and there also a patio which has an electronic retractable awning.

To the front there is a driveway providing ample parking which leads to a double garage with electronic up-and-over doors.

Harrietsham is by the A20 between Maidstone and Ashford. It is also served by a railway station providing access to Ashford International and London Victoria.

This property is priced at £530,000.

Agent: Connells, Maidstone
01622 751034
www.connells.co.uk

Connells

Rejoice in the tranquility

Roopers, Speldhurst

ROOPERS is a well-presented extended family home in Speldhurst village, which offers tranquil picturesque countryside.

The house offers great family living with a number of individual touches.

The bespoke oak-glazed front door leads into the hallway with a lovely terracotta-tiled floor and the downstairs cloakroom with feature glass mosaic tiles.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms, and the master features an en-suite shower room with a walk-in shower with drying area.

Downstairs, the sitting room has beech wooden flooring with double-glazed French doors opening onto the rear garden.

The dining room has a double-glazed window to the side and overlooks the garden.

And the garden room has an attractive pitched roof and stone flooring with doors on to the garden.

The kitchen by Schofield and Crafter is hand-painted with wall and base units and granite worktops with Fired Earth tiling, inset ceramic butler sink, Neff electric oven and gas hob, integrated Bosch dishwasher, integrated Bosch fridge and Brazilian slate floor.

There is a double garage with an electric up-and-over door, with power and light and plumbing for a washing machine.

The back garden has a Indian sandstone paved patio with low retaining oak topped wall providing a seating area with steps to a lawn area with decorative beds and borders, mature shrubs and trees.

There is also a raised deck area at the back of garden and a paved area at the side with a fishpond.

Speldhurst offers a nursery school and primary school, and for dining out an award-winning gastronomic pub/restaurant.

Tunbridge Wells is 2.5 miles away and offers boutiques, shopping centre, bars and restaurants. Trains to London can be reached either via Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells stations.

This property is priced at £590,000.

Agent: Connells, Canterbury
01227 764720
www.connells.co.uk

Connells

Ideal home for family living

Discovery Drive, Kings Hill

THIS large and beautifully presented six-bedroom executive family home in the historic market town of West Malling combines luxury living with a flexible and practical family living space.

Situated on Discovery Drive on the popular Kings Hill development on the edge of the town, this property is the ideal purchase for families looking for a fantastic house with great local facilities.

You enter the home through a spacious entrance hall leading on to a cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, study and a wonderful kitchen and breakfast room, adjoined by a utility room.

Each room has been beautifully finished and maintained, with the kitchen overlooking a large and professionally-landscaped garden including greenery and a pond.

On the first floor there is a large master bedroom with dressing room leading to the en-suite. Three further double bedrooms and family bathroom complete this floor.

On the second floor, there are two further double bedrooms and a shower room.

To the front and side of Discovery Drive there is an attractive paved driveway with a double garage.

The Kings Hill development is a contemporary yet established residential community about half a mile from West Malling, with its supermarket, shops and services including hairdresser, chemist, restaurants and doctors' surgery.

Additionally, there is a David Lloyd leisure centre, a 200-acre golf course, two primary schools, a pre-school and nursery on the development.

A bus service runs from Kings Hill to surrounding major towns as well as directly to West Malling train station, which links to the Eurostar terminal at Ashford and London Victoria. Junction 4 of the M20 is about four miles from Discovery Drive.

This property is priced at £530,000.

Agent: Connells, Maidstone
01622 751034
www.connells.co.uk

Connells

Home in a sought-after location

The Landway, Bearsted

AN individual detached family home in a sought-after location in the picturesque village of Bearsted is offered for sale by Your Move Premier.

The property provides well-proportioned accommodation including an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, laundry room and cloakroom/WC on the ground floor.

There is a master bedroom with en-suite and two further bedrooms and shower room/WC on the first floor.

The property benefits from gas-fired central heating and double-glazing as stated. Particularly attractive features are the gardens to the front, side and rear, with a frontage of about 100ft.

In addition there is a double garage with driveway offering ample parking facilities.

An early viewing of this property is essential to appreciate the benefits that it has to offer and its sought-after location.

The Landway is priced at £495,000.

Agent: Your Move Premier, Mid-Kent
01622 738282
www.your-move.co.uk/premier

On course for a treat

Millwall Place, Sandwich

IN a quiet Sandwich street is 10 and 12 Millwall Place, a charming period cottage.

It is in the heart of the Cinque Port of Sandwich, a highly-sought-after town providing an excellent range of facilities, including well-regarded schools and specialist shops.

The coast is close by, as is a range of well-known golf courses, including Royal St George's.

The property is formed from two late Regency houses, both of which are Grade II-listed.

No 12 bears a plaque inscribed 1892 and it is thought that this refers to the date the chimney stacks were rebuilt.

A front door opens into a bright sitting room arranged around a fireplace with a sash window to the front.

A doorway leads though to a dining room from which stairs rise to the first floor, and a door leads through to a study overlooking the garden. A second sitting room is situated at the back of the house and is a lovely bright room with French doors.

Adjacent is a good-sized kitchen which is fitted with a range of cupboards and there is ample room for a table.

The property can be accessed through a second front door directly into the kitchen.

On the first floor the bedroom accommodation is arranged off a central landing, with the master bedroom having a dressing room, which in turn leads to an en-suite bathroom that is 'Jack and Jill' with the landing.

The two further bedrooms are light and bright with sash windows. To the end of the landing is a family bathroom.

To the back of the house a secluded garden is paved to be low-maintenance. To one corner is a summer house.

There is a guide price of £475,000.

Agent: Strutt & Parker
01227 451123
www.struttandparker.com

Charming rural setting

Temptye Farmhouse, The Street, Worth

MILES & Barr is delighted to bring to the market Temptye Farmhouse.

In the rural setting of Worth, between Deal and Sandwich, this detached period home, which is priced at £475,000, boasts a 30ft sitting room, 24ft kitchen/diner, TV room/bedroom four, office/bedroom five, utility room and cloakroom on the ground floor.

Upstairs there are three further double bedrooms with a master en-suite, family bathroom and access to a fully-boarded loft currently being used as a play room.

The lawned gardens surround the property, with mature planting including grape vines, fig trees and fruit trees.

There is a detached timber chalet with shower room, which is ideal for guest accommodation, plus a detached garage, further gravel driveway and parking area for two or three cars.

There are colour-washed elevations and a double-catslide Kent peg-tile roof.

Beautiful farmland views complete the package and viewing is a must to appreciate all on offer.

Agent: Miles & Barr, Deal
01304 800555
www.milesandbarr.co.uk

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Modern Classic Collection

In popular city road

Old Dover Road, Canterbury

AS agent to the vendor, Miles & Barr is delighted to offer this superb four-bedroom executive detached property in arguably one of the most popular roads in Canterbury.

The property has been extended and completely renovated to provide comfortable and spacious living areas while retaining the original character of the house.

For example, the rear of the property boasts attractive art deco-style curved bays overlooking the back garden.

The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, three reception rooms, quality fitted kitchen with oak worktops, utility room and downstairs cloakroom.

On the first floor are four bedrooms (the master with en-suite) and there is a family bathroom upstairs.

The property sits on a slightly elevated plot and benefits from ample off-road parking on a block-paved driveway, having a garden to the rear.

This superb home, which is priced at £469,000, must be viewed to appreciate the accommodation offered throughout.

Phone Ben Johnson on 07887 853553 or email benjohnson@milesandbarr.co.uk for a viewing.

Agent: Miles & Barr, Canterbury
01227 200600
www.milesandbarr.co.uk

miles&barr

Restored to a high standard

Central Parade, Herne Bay

MILES & Barr is pleased to bring to the market this Grade II-listed home. The vendor has renovated and restored it to a very high standard.

The property is being sold as a six-bedroom home with a two-bedroom self-contained apartment, perfect to be let out or used as a granny annexe.

There is also the potential to create a further apartment on the ground floor as planning permission has been sought for the bringing forward of the fixed staircase, therefore creating a suitable layout.

Other benefits include direct sea views and parking at the back of the property.

Offers for this property are sought in the region of £450,000.

Agent: Miles & Barr, Whitstable
01227 740840
www.milesandbarr.co.uk

miles&barr

Apartment will impress

Rumwood Court, Langley

FORMING a substantial part of an Elizabethan manor house, this stunning three-bedroom apartment will not fail to impress.

Located to the east of Maidstone and set within landscaped grounds of almost 12 acres, the manor is close to the villages of Sutton Valence and Langley.

The original property is believed to have been built towards the end of Elizabeth I's reign in the late 16th-century and has been sympathetically adapted and extended in the following centuries.

Rumwood Court continues to be recognised as of historical importance following its Grade II listing in 1968.

The property is now arranged as seven unique apartments, all having communal use of the grounds, which include ornamental gardens, a small lake, expansive lawns and a tennis court.

This particular apartment is on the first floor and benefits from a wonderful balcony feature offering a south-westerly aspect.

There are two reception rooms, three bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom and shower room.

All rooms are accessed off large hallways which could easily be considered rooms in themselves.

The overall square footage of the apartment exceeds most family homes.

The property is at the end of a long gravelled driveway that sweeps past the main entrance and leads to a discreet garaging area. The apartment's own single garage is here.

The property has enormous potential for modern enhancements and is priced aggressively to reflect this.

Included in the sale is a one-quarter share of the freehold. This would afford the buyer significant influence in the future management of Rumwood Court – peace of mind that is rarely available.

Offers in the region of £375,000.

Agent: Fine & Country, Cranbrook
01580 715000
www.fineandcountry.co.uk

FINE & COUNTRY

Something for everyone

Kentish Gardens, Royal Tunbridge Wells

KENTISH Gardens is an exclusive collection of modern homes in the historic spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

It has been designed to offer something unique: inspiring architecture, beautiful natural surroundings and the highest-quality finishings.

Sitting behind secure electric gates and surrounded by woodlands, including a woodland walk and water features, these stylish new homes epitomise modern living.

The striking exterior design gives each property private external spaces, while the floor-to-ceiling windows boast fabulous views.

The interiors are no less impressive, with a specification and a quality of finish you would expect with homes of this calibre: feature kitchens, the latest in home audio-visual technology and exquisite bathroom fittings.

This is a development for those who want it all, and Tunbridge Wells is the perfect backdrop.

Sitting in the beauty of the Kentish Weald, this elegant and historic spa town is a highly desirable place to live, with an unrivalled combination of high-street stores in Royal Victoria Place and specialist shops in the old high street and the historic Pantiles, together with excellent restaurants, traditional pubs, lively cafés and wine bars.

Schooling in the area is of a high standard, with a wide range of independent and state schools.

The surrounding countryside offers the perfect respite. Whether it's walking, cycling, horse-riding or golf, there is something for all.

And yet, while this countryside feels like you could be a million miles from anywhere, the nearby A26 quickly joins the A21, bringing the motorway network, the capital and airports within easy reach.

Tunbridge Wells also has two mainline train stations.

This superb property is priced at £750,000.

Agent: Connells, Tunbridge Wells
01892 547966
www.connells.co.uk

Connells

On the edge of county town

Oakdene, Pheasant Lane, Maidstone

PHEASANT Lane is in a secluded location on the outskirts of Maidstone town centre, just 32 miles south-east of London.

Whether you prefer to live an active life or just relax in your leisure time, there's plenty to offer in and around Maidstone.

As well as a thriving business community, there is a flourishing shopping centre and a wide range of nightlife with live music, nightclubs, restaurants and bars.

This family home, priced at £595,000, is located perfectly for easy access to the M20 links to capital and coast, whether it is business or leisure you had in mind.

Maidstone East train station is also less than two miles away, providing direct routes to London in just over one hour, or southbound to Ashford International for overseas travelling in less than half an hour.

Pheasant Lane falls within the Loose school catchment area and there are many excellent schools and colleges with a number of nursery, primary and secondary schools in Maidstone itself and many more in the surrounding villages.

Higher education is provided by Mid Kent College of Higher and Further Education.

Agent: RPC Land & New Homes
01622 691911
www.rpcnewhomes.co.uk

rpc

Life in desirable village

Harling House, Havillands, Wye

HARLING House is a beautiful five-bedroom property in the desirable village of Wye.

This property has been built by local developer FDC Homes, which has an excellent reputation for building quality properties.

Harling House has been carefully designed to be open, light and airy and finished to an outstanding internal specification.

From the front door you enter the entrance hall that provides access to the dining room featuring a contemporary wall-mounted gas fire as the focal point.

The dining room links through to the living room, which also has a stylish gas fire and provides views of the back garden.

Along the hall you will find the beautiful open-plan kitchen/breakfast room.

The stylish kitchen units and cupboards are finished in walnut with a granite worktop.

Integrated appliances include a fridge-freezer, dishwasher, double oven and five-gas-burner hob.

The kitchen has French doors opening directly to the back garden and there is a separate utility room with an outside door.

The utility room has been plumbed for a washing machine and provides space for a tumble-dryer.

There is a spacious carpeted cloakroom and study on the ground floor, along with a useful cupboard under the stairs.

On the first floor you will find four spacious bedrooms. Bedroom 2 has an en-suite shower room and there is a stylish family bathroom.

On the second floor you will find the master bedroom, which has been fitted with an en-suite and wardrobes. You will also find a useful storage area on this floor.

The front garden has been landscaped and designed by Lloyd Bore landscaping architects. The back garden is mainly laid to lawn with a stone patio area.

Wye is an attractive village with fantastic amenities, while there is a regular train service to London.

Harling House is priced at £499,950.

Agent: Strutt & Parker
01227 451123
www.struttandparker.com

STRUTT & PARKER

Views over open fields

Oast Court Farm, East Malling

THERE is an exceptional opportunity to buy unique homes specifically designed for this outstanding location in the heart of the Kent countryside.

This select and serene development offers a choice of superior homes with magnificent plots and views across open fields, together with the use of a new tennis court and changing rooms.

This really is living at its finest in a luxurious private gated environment.

A new show home is just being launched on to the market – the first one has already sold – and visitors are welcome; the development is open seven days a week.

The unusually-designed homes have been created to complement the Kentish vernacular.

They reflect the 'homestead history' of the Garden of England and, although all are new, the properties have taken on the appearance of converted barns.

All are eco-friendly, with very high specifications giving buyers the best of both worlds.

You can even buy a new three-roundel oast house.

The new show home is the Malling (plot 6) – a 1,699 square foot, four-bedroom semi-detached house with good-sized, level gardens to front and rear and a double garage.

As soon as you enter, you will appreciate the refreshing charge of light in the magnificent entrance hall with its two-storey-height windows that create a fabulous welcoming space, allowing the sunshine to pour in.

The master bedroom has a good-sized walk-in dressing room, together with en-suite bathroom with bath and shower unit.

The Malling is priced at £575,000.

In the £495,000-£900,000 range is the four-bedroom, 1,475 sq ft Nettlestead (plot 2), which sits at the head of the development.

It is a terraced home with American-style West Coast ultra-white weatherboarding.

With its two garages and double parking space, the property is on the market for £495,000.

The amazing Ightham (plot 7) is a five-bedroom detached family home with double garage.

It has an exceedingly large south-facing back garden bordered by tall established trees.

This fabulous home of 2,405 sq ft will take your breath away. New houses with land are a genuinely rare find. It is priced at £875,000.

So exceptional is the location of Oast Court Farm that Hillreed Homes has designed and built a new five-bedroom, three-roundel attached oast house with double garage. It covers 3,007 sq ft and is priced at £900,000.

There is a regular train service from East Malling and West Malling stations to London Victoria (about an hour's journey time) and to Ashford.

Agent: Hillreed
01622 813385
www.hillreed.co.uk

HILLREED
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Close to commuter services

Pentwood Place, Hurst Green

INTRODUCING Pentwood Place, a small exclusive development of just two new four-bedroom detached homes in Hurst Green, East Sussex.

Hurst Green is a village conveniently located on the A21 between Battle and the Kent border.

Amenities are close to hand such as shops, schools, churches, public houses and restaurants, while nearby Etchingham station provides train services to London Victoria and London Bridge.

These attractive and well-designed and finished homes are set back from the road and accessed via a private gated drive with landscaping to the front.

These are classic, traditional two-storey family homes with an impressive spacious entrance hall.

The groundfloor accommodation comprises a separate dining room, lounge with garden room-style conservatory and utility room/downstairs cloakroom with solid-oak work surface and space for a washing machine.

A contemporary kitchen with a view of the back garden includes granite worktops with high-gloss wall and base units, granite floor tiles, integrated appliances oven, hob, extractor, integrated fridge-freezer and dishwasher.

The first-floor landing is bright and spacious, leading to four double bedrooms and the main bathroom.

The bathroom is beautifully finished with white contemporary suite, fully tiled with ceramic floor-tiling. The master bedroom has an en-suite shower, again fully tiled with flooring.

The back gardens are private and finished with part patio and laid to lawn, both with convenient side access.

To the rear of the gardens is a field with views over the countryside – perfect for both short and long walks.

An integral garage with electric door and parking is situated to the front of each property. Both properties have the benefit of an NHBC 10-year warranty.

Viewing of these properties is highly recommended as they are of a good specification and standard of finishing, with an attractive price-tag of £435,000.

Agents: RPC Land & New Homes
01732 363633
www.rpcnewhomes.co.uk.

rpc

Everything YOU need

Bredhurst Gardens, Wigmore

SHOULD you require good-sized, spacious accommodation with a high-specification finish, then you need look no further – Bredhurst Gardens in Wigmore, near Rainham, has everything you need.

Located in the popular and established residential area of Bredhurst Road and Foulds Close, you are ideally placed for amenities, primary and secondary schools and easy access to the M2 at junction 4.

This exclusive development of just 11 newly-built homes constructed by Antler Homes with its renowned high-quality finish has been thoughtfully planned to give each of the four-bedroom detached houses a generous amount of space.

Internally, there is a spacious entrance hallway; open-plan kitchen/breakfast and utility room complete with stainless-steel oven, hob and hood plus integrated Siemens dishwasher and fridge-freezer; two reception rooms; fitted wardrobes to bedrooms; and en-suite shower room to master bedroom.

In addition there is plenty of space externally, with garage, driveway-parking and turfed back garden.

Byron House (plot 2) is in the quiet cul-de-sac of Foulds Close and is complete with ceramic floor tiles to kitchen, bathroom and en-suite, wood flooring to hallway and fitted carpets to bedrooms and reception rooms, along with attractive light fittings, and so is ready to just move straight in.

If you have a property to sell, why not take advantage of Antler Homes's part-exchange scheme?

This offers buyers the opportunity to sell their existing home within just seven days with no lengthy chains and no estate agents' fees.

To find out more, contact the selling agents and speak to a sales consultant about how you could part-exchange your way to a new home*.

With the majority of the homes at Bredhurst Gardens already sold, there are now only three remaining.

With the benefit of part-exchange and other incentives available, plus fitted carpets and light fittings included at prices from £399,950, they are not expected to be available for long.

*Part-exchange is subject to terms and conditions – call for full details.

Agent: RPC Land & New Homes
01634 835900/01634 261932
www.rpcnewhomes.co.uk

rpc

Taste of the good life

Aldington Meadow

SET in Aldington, with views over Romney Marsh and a choice of stylish four- and five-bedroom houses in a location that combines good access to the capital, coast and countryside, it's not surprising that life feels good at Aldington Meadow.

These exclusive properties all benefit from fitted kitchens with integrated appliances and five-burner gas-hobs. Gas central-heating with a high-efficiency boiler is standard.

All properties have either a single or double garage with a variety of differing size plots.

Indeed The Monarch, a five-bedroom detached home with double garage is more than 3,000 square feet.

It comprises three en-suites and a fantastic ground floor with an open-plan kitchen/breakfast area as well as a utility room.

There is also a separate living room, dining room and study, all on a delightful corner plot with a south-facing rear garden surrounded by open space.

From its historic parish church, primary school and post office to the stores from butcher to baker, as well as village hall and tennis courts and a raft of clubs and associations, Aldington is a thriving village.

The village is home to The Walnut Tree and The Good Intent pubs, both with restaurants, while there is a Tesco less than two miles away.

More shopping includes Sainsbury's and Asda in Ashford, six miles away, with its bustling high street, market five days a week and modern mall shopping at the Park Mall and County Square centres.

The Stour Centre sports and leisure complex in Ashford is equipped with both swimming and learner pools, and there are activities from Saturday soccer to squash.

Canterbury, 19 miles away, with its cathedral-city ambience, has all the restaurants, cafés, bars and bistros of a lively university town.

These properties are priced between £349,995 and £644,950.

Agent: Connells, Park Farm, Ashford
01233 502020
www.connells.co.uk

Connells

A rare opportunity

Noah's Place, Kemsing

IT is not often that a selling agent comes across a charming, delightful and unique development of new homes like Noah's Place in Kemsing, a semi-rural village.

With just five properties, comprising two detached three-bedroom homes and three three-bedroom terrace/end-of-terrace houses, this is an ideal spot for country living, with the benefit of amenities to hand.

Along the road from the development is a quaint duck pond which overlooks paddocks where horses graze on a sunny day.

The homes are deceptively spacious and enjoy contemporary kitchen-diners, together with groundfloor study/family room.

The kitchens all have integrated appliances, *ie* oven, hob, extractor, fridge-freezer, washing-machine and dishwasher.

Each kitchen has differently-designed units and worktops, making each home individual.

Bathroom, en-suites and downstairs cloakrooms also have different tile designs and colours from that of the next property.

Carpets and flooring are included as standard as part of the developer's specification, as well as security alarm with PIR sensors, TV aerial and booster, prewired for satellite.

The detached homes enjoy a manageable and walled garden with side access, while the terrace/end-of-terrace homes have generous gardens, which is unusual for new-build properties.

All the gardens are laid to lawn with a patio area. Allocated parking for two cars is catered for in a courtyard setting.

A short drive or bus ride away is the town of Sevenoaks, with its bustling high street.

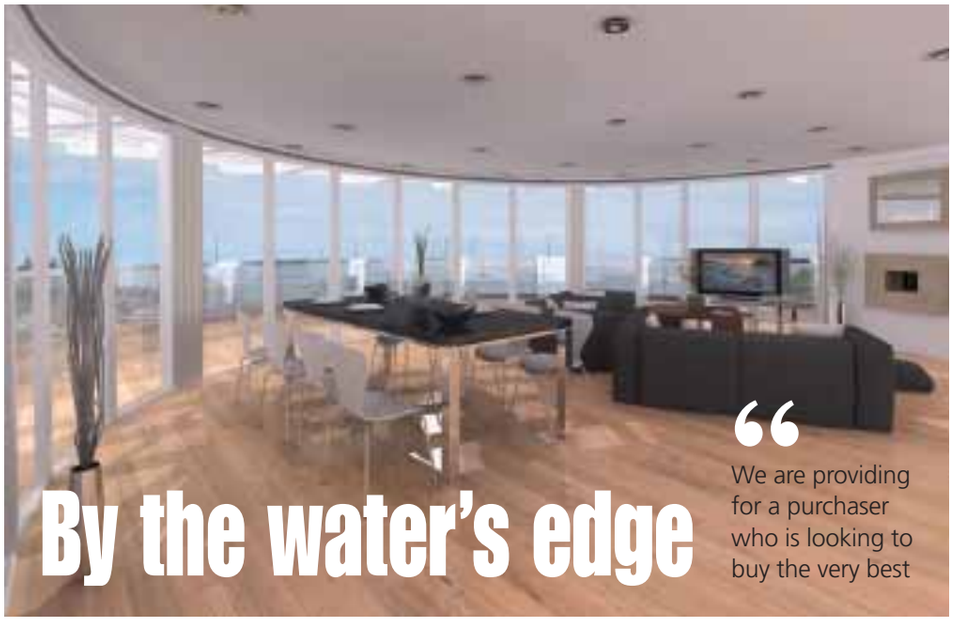
Noah's Place is only 0.6 mile from Kemsing station, which has a service to London Victoria taking some 40 minutes.

Prices range from £320,000 to £360,000, with a Stamp Duty Paid Incentive**.

** subject to terms and conditions, limited period only

Agent: RPC Land & New Homes
01732 363633
www.rpcnewhomes.co.uk

rpc



By the water's edge

"We are providing for a purchaser who is looking to buy the very best

The Hamptons, Gillingham Marina

POSITIONED on the water's edge at Gillingham Marina, this stunning development of 24 high-quality apartments and duplexes boasts superb panoramic river and marina views.

The impressive building has a nine-storey rounded tower as its focal point on the eastern corner, stepping down to four storeys to create a crescent-shaped landscaped garden at the back of the building.

Each of the spacious apartments has been designed with luxury and style in mind.

They feature integrated Italian designer kitchens with Siemens appliances; American-style fridge-freezer and Corian worktops; Vola and Dornbracht shower fittings over large walk-in shower enclosures; ceramic tiles to bathrooms and kitchens; hardwood flooring to hallways, bedrooms and reception rooms; underfloor heating; gas fire (penthouses only); and ambient-mood lighting system to living rooms.

They are also wired for TV, phone, multi-room music and radio.

Developer F.Parham Ltd's attention to detail and commitment to provide a quality finish is obvious as you walk around the properties.

The managing director said: "The materials used in both the structure and finishes are of a much higher specification than you will find elsewhere.

"You really need to inspect our show home to appreciate the value – we are providing for a purchaser who is looking to buy the very best."

Alongside the luxury specification and stunning views of the apartments, there is also a 24-hour-manned security-controlled gate at the marina entrance, giving added peace of mind for residents.

The basement area provides secure allocated parking and there are bike and storage bays for each apartment.

Three separate lifts provide easy access to all floors.

For those residents looking to enjoy leisure pursuits, there is a range of activities in the immediate area.

Gillingham Marina itself offers a great base position for cruising on the Medway and Thames or more extended voyages to the east coast and France; moorings are available.

There is also the Waterfront Leisure Centre in the marina, offering swimming pool, gym and squash and badminton courts, where residents can benefit from concession membership rates.

Just outside the marina is The Strand leisure park and Riverside country park, which both offer leisure facilities in pleasant surroundings.

To the west of the development is the Dockside Outlet Centre, providing shops, restaurants, bars and an Odeon cinema.

With 12 apartment styles to choose from and a wealth of amenities on the doorstep, this exclusive development is worth a closer look.

Agent: RPC Land & New Homes
01634 835900
www.rpcnewhomes.co.uk

rpc

STRUTT & PARKER

Register today for a serious number of serious buyers.

On Saturday 26 March from 10am-4pm we are holding another one of our highly successful National Open House Days.

It's a day when participating properties across the country are available to view - with absolutely no appointment necessary.

Hundreds of houses took part in our last National Open House Day and **over 16%** sold as a direct result of taking part.

So if you want to sell and be part of our National Open House Day call Canterbury on 01227 451123 or visit struttandparker.com/openday

STRUTT & PARKER'S

26 March 2011

Make sure you register for your area.
Visit struttandparker.com/openday